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OCTOBER 1950

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AMATEUR RADIO

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EDITORIAL

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The rapid post-war increase in the number of licenced Amateurs has reduced the elbow room available for operation on restricted bands when conditions are good.

The "Gentlemen's Agreement," providing for voluntary reservation of portion of each band for c.w. operation, was promoted by your Federal Council with a view to giving c.w. operators a channel comparatively free from phone QRM. Naturally the success of any plan of this nature depends upon the whole-hearted co-operation of the individual. Hence the success of the present plan rests with YOU and every other active Operator.

The major QRM problems in each and every band are created by:—"Inane Earbashing," "Splatter," and "Poor Operating Techniques."

"Inane Earbashing" we will leave to the conscience of the individuals concerned—perhaps when the housing shortage is overcome the aforesaid earbashers will be able to lean on the dividing fence once more.

"Splatter" can be avoided if every law abiding Amateur makes proper use of the monitor demanded by the conditions of his "Station Licence;" therefore no excuses should be proffered or accepted for such offences.

"Poor Operating Technique" is only excusable if the offender is a newcomer to our ranks; however, observation indicates that the chief offenders in this direction are experienced operators or the swaggering type, who satisfy their ego by adopting irregular and individual procedures, which are in many cases in somewhat doubtful taste. Unfortunately some of the younger members who join the Amateur ranks are apt to adopt this slap happy style rather than the more sober procedure designed to give everyone the maximum enjoyment of our hobby.

Federal Executive suggests that in order to promote goodwill and good operating, instead of advocating return to the "probationary period on c.w." (which can never be justified on technical grounds) each and every Amateur should:—

- Make a point of getting to know personally each of the new licencees (Radio Amateur type) in his district.
- Help all newcomers along the road to good operating instead of shunning them as if they were interlopers in our ranks merely because of slowness on the key or hesitancy in phone procedure.
- If unable to help your neighbour solve his technical problem, introduce him to someone who can do so.
- **Practice the Amateur Code.**

Let's make goodwill and good operating a certainty by adopting a co-operative attitude towards all fellow Amateurs, old and new alike.

FEDERAL EXECUTIVE

The Contents . . .

LOGARITHMIC COMPRESSOR

Aids in Preventing Overmodulation While Increasing Signal Effectiveness

Every phone man, at some time in his QRM-ridden life, has wished that he had a small switch available which would permit him magically to increase his power tenfold. This would be Utopia—from one kilowatt to ten kilowatts by pressing a button.

This button is now available, and it is mounted on the front of the Logarithmic Compressor. This unit will give an effective signal gain which is adjustable from a few db up to as much as ten db (ten to one in power).

The Logarithmic Compressor is an audio amplifier device which is inserted between your microphone and your present speech amplifier. Its function is to push up the average modulation level, with the result that high percentage modulation is assured at all times, regardless of the sound level reaching the microphone.

COMPRESSION VERSUS CLIPPING

Those familiar with clippers or clipping circuits can see that the Logarithmic Compressor is intended to do the same sort of job as a clipper. There is, however, an important difference between logarithmic compression as used in the Logarithmic Compressor and clipping.

Fig. 2 compares the characteristics of the two different systems. In either case the input wave suffers distortion, but the distortion caused by the clipping action of the ordinary diode type clipper (Fig. 2B) is worse for a given amount of signal compression than that caused by the logarithmic compression of a copper-oxide instrument rectifier (Fig. 2A).

Distortion present in either circuit will add "harshness" to speech signals and without further treatment would result in excessively broad signals. Therefore, any distorting type circuit should be followed by a suitable filter to prevent the high frequency products produced by this distortion from reaching the modulated stage. With such a filter much of the "harshness" will still be present but the radio frequency signal need not be broad. The harshness results from cross modulation (distortion) products that lie within the pass band of the filter.

The advantage of the logarithmic compression system is that the distortion is less severe (for a given amount of compression) than the clipper type, and this makes possible the use of a vastly simpler filter arrangement. Three "stages" of R-C type filtering used in the Logarithmic Compressor are as effective as more elaborate sharp-cutoff types of L-C filter virtually necessary with the clipper type of circuit.

Further, the transient response of the R-C type filter is such that no overshot of signal peaks can occur. This is not the case with sharp-cutoff L-C filters. This means that the logarithmic compressor circuit with a properly designed R-C filter is superior to the ordinary clipper circuit followed by a sharp L-C filter. Repeated tests confirm this statement.

FEATURES—

- **Provides 10 db increased effectiveness;**
- **Uses self-contained speech-range filter;**
- **Three tubes, including rectifier;**
- **Small size—space saving.**

In keeping with our policy of re-printing worthwhile articles from overseas publications, we present the following article in G.E. "Ham Hints," May-June, 1950.

For those Hams who possess a modulator and speech amplifier, but desire the advantages of speech clipping, this unit will enable them to obtain the advantage of clipping without pulling their present gear about, as it is simply inserted between the microphone and pre-amplifier.

The 12AT7 high-mu twin triodes specified are at present difficult to obtain in Australia, but we understand they will be obtainable soon. The nearest equivalent is the 6SL7, and we would like to know how this circuit works out with these valves so that the information can be passed on to our readers.

CIRCUIT DETAILS

With reference to Fig. 3 it will be seen that the first 12AT7 acts as a two stage audio amplifier to bring the signal from the microphone to a sufficient level so that the compression circuit itself operates at the proper level. Resistor R1 in the first stage has been added as a precaution against r.f. feedback.

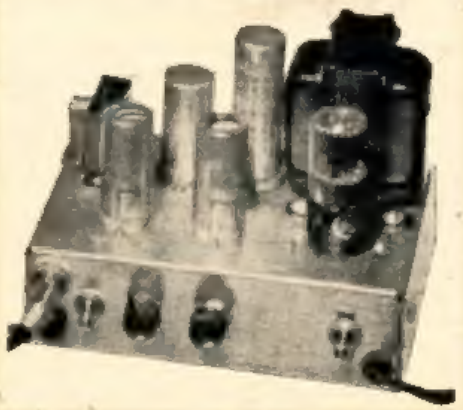


Fig. 1.—The Logarithmic Compressor ready to plug into your present microphone jack. Controls are, left to right, in-out switch, compression control, output control and a.c. on-off switch.

Special care has been taken to attenuate low audio frequencies prior to compression. Doing this gives a well balanced speech response as well as minimising much of the distortion caused by cross-modulation between the low speech frequencies and the **intelligence-bearing** high speech frequencies. The values of condensers C2, C3, and C4 are chosen to attenuate the low frequencies adequately before speech compression. Condensers C7 and C9 serve the same purpose after compression has taken place.

Resistor R4, by varying the signal input to the second section of the first 12AT7, enables control of the amount of compression.

The audio transformer, T1, is necessary because the limiting circuit must be fed by a low-impedance, low-resistance source. Using the centre tap on this transformer, accomplishes this function.

The actual limiting or compression circuit consists only of R7 and W, the latter being two sections of a copper-oxide instrument rectifier. Resistors R8 and R9, together with condensers C5 and C6 act as a two-section R-S filter. The output of this filter feeds the second 12AT7 directly. Resistor R12 acts as an output control so that the output level from the speech compressor may be made to match the output level of the microphone. Thus when the speech compressor is switched out of the circuit no other adjustment need be made.

The output tube is required for two reasons. It is necessary to present the proper load to the two R-C filters and, secondly, to permit a third R-C stage to be utilised. Inasmuch as the second section of the 12AT7 tube is not used this may seem like wasting part of the tube, but the use of a high-mu triode was dictated and the 12AT7 fills this requirement nicely. Note that the heater of the unused section need not be energised. Many uses for this extra tube section will undoubtedly suggest themselves.

The in-out switch, S2, allows the unit to be switched in and out of the circuit easily. Note that shielded wire is specified for the connections to this switch. The output itself is carried by a shielded lead which plugs into the mike jack of any speech amplifier designed to handle a high impedance dynamic or crystal microphone.

The power supply is conventional in all respects. Because of the low current drain on the power supply a resistor-capacitor filter is employed. Resistor R18 and condenser C11 provide decoupling and additional filtering for the first 12AT7 section plate voltage.

The connections indicated by the heavy black lines in the power supply section should all be made to one ground point. This will prevent the chassis from carrying the circulating capacitor current and help to keep the unit hum-free.

CONSTRUCTIONAL DETAILS

As may be seen from the photograph, the entire unit, including power supply, is mounted on a 5 by 7 by 2 inch chassis. While the layout is not critical, it is advisable to keep the power supply portion of the circuit as far away from the rest of the circuit as possible. The layout shown is quite satisfactory.

With reference to Fig. 1, the front panel layout, from left to right, is: mike jack, output lead, in-out switch, compression control, output level control, AC on-off switch and AC cord. The tubes are, left to right, input 12AT7, output 12AT7 and 6X5 rectifier. Note that the two 12AT7 tubes are shielded. Resistor R1 (underneath chassis) is placed as close to the grid pin as possible.

The wiring can be made simpler if the unused leads from the power transformer are pulled inside the transformer case and securely taped to avoid shorts. This was done with the 2.5 volt and the 5.0 volt windings.

The unit pictured uses a bottom cover plate for the chassis. This is recommended to avoid RF feedback. Any sort of thin metal will serve for this purpose, if your chassis comes without a bottom plate.

COMPONENT PARTS

While no extremely critical values are required, it is recommended that the specified values be used in all cases. For example, C2 and C7 are specified as 1.0 uF. condensers. If lower values were to be used, the frequency response would suffer, and if higher values were used, the result would be insufficient low-frequency attenuation.

Almost any sort of push-pull plates to voice coil transformer will serve as T1. Wattage rating of this transformer is not important.

If possible, linear taper potentiometers should be used at R4 and R12. This sort of taper will give a smoother action than other types of taper.

Care must be taken in purchasing the limiter rectifier, W, because instrument rectifiers come in several different styles. Basically, of course, they are used to make AC meters out of DC meters. However, they can be purchased as half-wave units, doubler units, full-wave units and bridge units.

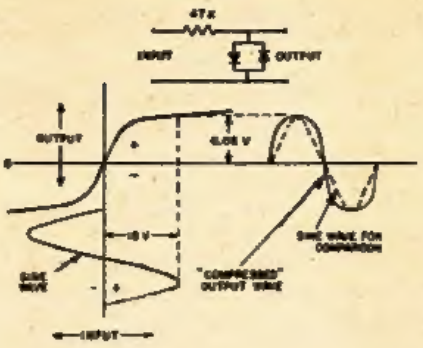
Two separate half-wave units, connected as shown, will work, and the bridge-rectifier style will work if the proper leads are used. The "full-wave" unit will not serve because the two diode sections are connected improperly. In the doubler type rectifier the two diode units are connected as shown in Figs. 2 and 3 and therefore this type of instrument rectifier would be the best to use.

COMPRESSION ADJUSTMENT

The adjustment of the Logarithmic Compressor is done very easily. Plug in a mike and place the in-out switch, S2, in the "out" position so that the microphone is connected directly to your speech amplifier, then follow these three steps:—

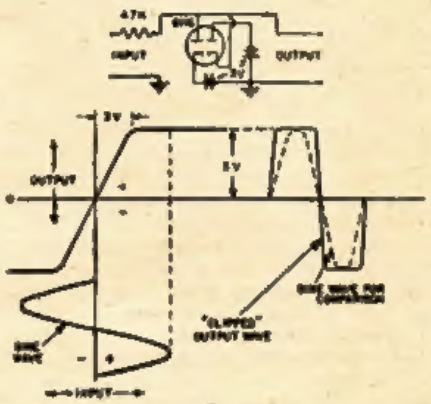
● Adjust the audio gain control on the transmitter for normal modulation as seen on an osoilloscope (the best method) or some other instrument worthy of trust.

Transfer Characteristics of Back-to-Back Copper Oxide Instrument Rectifier



A

Transfer Characteristics of Usual Diode Clipper Circuit



B

Fig. 2.—A comparison between the output waveform of a Logarithmic Compressor and a diode clipper.

● Put the output control on the unit to zero and set the compression control so that it is about half open. Switch the compressor to "in" and advance the output control while speaking into the microphone until the **peak** modulation is the same as in step 1. While an oscilloscope is not absolutely necessary in order to make this adjustment, it is strongly recommended.

● Adjust the compression control so that the average plate current in the modulator stage on a sustained "00000—0" is, say, not over twice that obtained with the compressor out. Then try compressor "in" and "out" on a few QSOs to find the best operating point of the compression control for the microphone you are using and the receiving conditions prevalent at the other fellow's QTH.

USE OF THE COMPRESSOR

With the Logarithmic Compressor in use the modulator tubes are required to handle much more average power than usual. In fact, it is possible that your modulator stage will not be capable of handling the extra average power required. Careful checking with an oscilloscope will determine if this is the case.

As a general rule, if your modulator can handle a sine wave signal at 100% modulation, then the average power capability of your modulator is adequate for use with the Logarithmic Compressor. (After all, this ten db gain has to come from some place!) This means that, for a kilowatt rig, your modulator should be capable of continuous operation at 500 watts output at 1,000 cycles. For lower powers the same ratio holds.

In operation the compressor must be used with judgment—good judgment that is. Too much compression may make an otherwise acceptable signal almost intolerable. With a judicious amount of compression one can expect to add from 6 db (4 to 1 in power) to 10 db (10 to 1 in power) in the effective-

ness of his signal **provided** conditions at the receiving point are such that understandability without the compressor is impaired by QRM or high background noise.

RESULTS WITH THE COMPRESSOR

In many months of test at W2KUJ the following information has been obtained. Nearby stations, or stations not experiencing QRM, prefer that the compressor **not be** used. Stations receiving a weak signal or listening through severe QRM prefer that the compressor be used.

Reports from the latter stations range from eight to ten db jump in effective signal strength when the compressor is switched in. Reports from nearby stations are that the signal is **louder**, but somewhat less readable with the compressor in use than without it.

In no case has a report been given that the signal was broader when the compressor was used, even when this question was asked of nearby stations.

Tests made at W2RYT's shack indicate that different microphones give somewhat different results when used with the compressor. For example, an Electro-Voice Model 605 dynamic mike and an Electro-Voice Model 915 crystal mike seemed to have identical speech characteristics (although the dynamic mike had less output) when used without the compressor.

When used with the compressor, the dynamic mike was found to have a speech quality which was less harsh than that of the crystal mike. Further, it was found advisable to advance the compression control with the dynamic mike.

The foregoing is not intended as a recommendation for dynamic mikes, nor is it intended as an authoritative comparison between two Electro-Voice microphones. The comparison has been made to emphasise the importance of testing your compressor carefully with each microphone you may use with it.

In summary, one can expect to boost the effectiveness of his signal when it is needed most by use of the compressor (it frequently means the difference between making a contact or not) with some decrease in ease of reading the signal where the compressor is not needed.

Bear in mind that the compressor **can be** misused (to your disadvantage). Seek honestly to find the operating points which best exploit its use. In many cases it is best to **not** use the compressor. But in those cases where it is needed, the Logarithmic Compressor can really do a job for you.

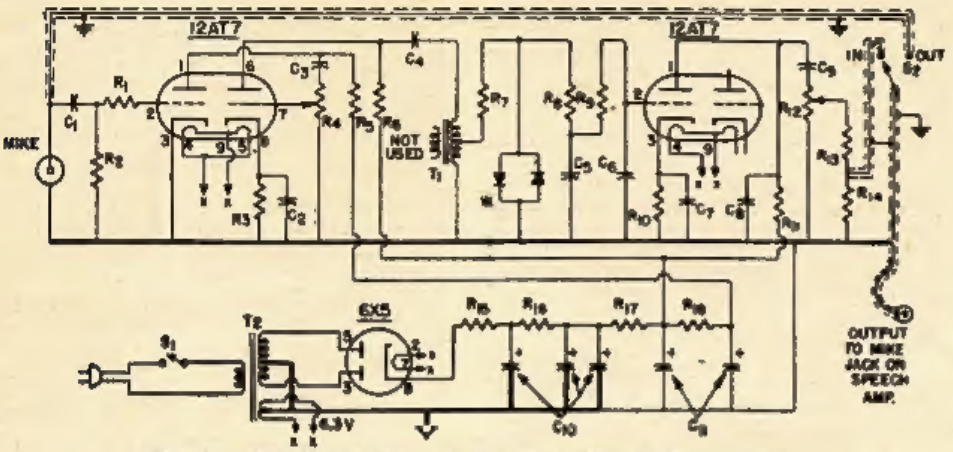


Fig. 3.—Circuit diagram of the Logarithmic Compressor.

CIRCUIT CONSTANTS

(All resistors and capacitors ± 20% tolerance unless specified otherwise.)

C1, C9—0.01 uF. 400 volt paper or mica
C2, C7—1.0 uF. paper (see text)
C3—1000 pF. mica.
C4—0.05 uF. 400 volt paper.
C5—1000 pF. ±10% mica.
C6—100 pF. ±10% mica.
C8—0.005 uF. ±10% mica.
C10—16 uF. 450 volt electrolytics (see text).
C11—8 uF. 450 volt electrolytics.
R1, R14—10,000 ohm, ½ watt.
R2—10 megohm, ½ watt.
R3, R10—470 ohm, ½ watt.
R4—0.5 megohm potentiometer.
R5—0.1 megohm, 1 watt.
R6, R11—47,000 ohm, 1 watt.
R7—47,000 ohm, ½ watt.
R8—56,000 ohm, ±10%, ½ watt.
R9—0.56 megohm, ±10%, ½ watt.
R12—0.1 megohm potentiometer.
R13—0.47 megohm, ½ watt.
R15—470 ohm, 2 watts.
R16—2,200 ohm, 2 watt.
R17—1,000 ohm, 1 watt.
R18—4700 ohm, 1 watt.
S1—SPST toggle switch.
S2—SPDT toggle switch.
T1—Push-pull plates to voice coil audio transformer (see text).
T2—Power transformer, 300-0-300 volts at 50 mils., 6.3 volts at 2 amp.
W—Copper-oxide instrument rectifier (see text).

Extracting the Watts

BY E. A. CHARLES,* VK5YQ

With the receiver problem out of the way (August "A.R."), thoughts turn to the transmitter and output efficiency. There are many ways of feeding various antennae and checking the S.W.R. to affect the matching of the transmission line to the antenna. This is a most necessary pre-requisite to efficiently loading the transmitter, as well as ensuring that the antenna system **only** is doing the radiating. However, the usual antenna tuner has been left in its pre-war form—a high L/C circuit designed for both series and parallel tuned feeders.

The usual antenna tuner was constructed on similar physical lines to the final p.a. tank. The Amateur was not concerned with loss of fidelity due to attenuation of high frequencies—side-band cutting. A high impedance tank was required for voltage-fed resonant lines for Zepp fed aerials and multi-band operation.

With the introduction of low impedance, un-tuned, non-resonant lines, the way out was to feed them by either tapping down the antenna tuner tank, or by inductively (link) coupling the transmission line. More often, an antenna tuner was not considered, if, by pushing a one or two turn link into the final tank, it "loaded." If it didn't, the coupling was increased until it did "load," **or**, the new aerial (or transmission line) was immediately condemned!

With the availability of 300 ohm twin lead, or the economy and free-from-weather-effect of home-constructed 300 ohm transmission line, its flexibility makes it a natural choice. It has low losses, freedom from radiation, and freedom from unbalance due to proximity of grounded objects. So, you leave tuned feeders and full-wave Zepps to the countryman, the old-timers and experimenters like the VK5 "Umbrella-Man," putting your antenna system, whatever it may be, wherever most suitable, without any worries where the feed line must go.

Now, let us see what else is required. The object is to draw power from the p.a. and put all possible into the antenna (again remembering that **only** when the line is matched to the antenna feed-point impedance will all that power go into the antenna). In addition, we also desire:—

(a) The most efficient transfer of power;
(b) Absence of b.c.l. interference;
(c) Absence of harmonic radiation (and t.v.i.);
(d) If possible, multi-band operation.

With the transmitter itself properly tamed, (b) and (c) are taken care of by link coupling and a Faraday shield. It is a simple matter to install the popular 75 ohm co-ax line, using the outer braiding to form a Faraday shield. However, you must ensure that the antenna tuner is not within the field of the p.a. tank, or the effect of the Faraday shield is lost. It does not have to be co-ax line—you can shield a loop with braid (and insulate it) and earth it, running twin lead to the antenna tuner, unshielded when it is out of the p.a. pick-up zone. And it does not have to be exactly 75 ohm line, for a short line (compared to a quarter wavelength at the operating frequency) similarly terminated each end, reflects the same impedance both ends.

The reason for the figure 75 ohm, is because the antenna tuner is a parallel-tuned two turn coil (2" inside diameter, spaced wire diameter, heavy copper wire or tubing, silver plated if possible). The single turn link becomes the primary of a 1 : 2 turns/voltage step-up transformer; which is a 1 : 4 impedance step-up. Four times 75 equals 300—right on the beam for our 300 ohm line.

For plate-modulated phone, a p.a. tank with a loaded Q of 12 is desirable. An optimum practical coefficient of coupling of 0.09 makes the antenna tuner with a loaded Q of 10, so for parallel resonance, the capacity required equals: $C = \frac{Q}{2 \pi f R}$. Remembering, again, only where our antenna is matched to the line (which now behaves as a purely resistive load at the operating frequency—300 ohms).

The capacities in circuit to resonate our antenna tuner with parallel tuning are:—

Ten Metre Band	100 pF. approx.
Twenty Metres	350 pF. approx.
Forty Metres	900 pF. approx.

Since it is a low-voltage tank, a receiving type condenser will be satisfactory—a 0.0005 usual b.c. type is OK. One that can be mounted with equal capacity between fixed and moving plates to earth is preferred. For tuning forty metres, a 0.0005 fixed condenser in parallel is required (**or** forty metres can be **series**-tuned by having a capacity of approximately 7 pF. in series with one leg of the 300 ohm line—the parallel capacity out of circuit).

The capacities are given as approximate, as they will depend, in actual working conditions, on the extra amount of inductance present in the circuit represented by the actual length of leads from the coil to the condenser. The parallel capacity will usually be a small percentage less. However, if the antenna loads way off the capacity shown, you haven't remembered! Or, if you have, you haven't done anything about matching the line to the antenna—you have got a poor S.W.R.! So get to work with a twin-lamp!

Assuming you have a low S.W.R., you will find that you will have the same or a little better line current as when using the high L/C type antenna tuner. After all that was really like putting in a power transformer when all that was required was a 2.5v. to 6.3v. auto-transformer!

To refresh your memories, the line current to be expected is calculated from $P = I^2R$, where R is your line Z when flat. So, if you are running forty odd watts to an 807, then an output of 30 watts is pretty good, giving 0.32 Amp. in the 300 ohm flat line to the antenna.

$$\left(I = \sqrt{\frac{P}{R}}\right)$$

For you 100 watt men, unmodulated line current of 0.5 Amp. is the order of the day. If you have any more on an accurate RF meter, it means either (a) you have standing waves, or (b) the R.I. is away on annual leave!

Put up a folded dipole for each band desired, you know that is well matched.

* 193 Young Street, North Unley, S.A.

Abstracts from Overseas Magazines

R.S.G.B. "BULLETIN," APRIL, 1950

P. 332: **"The Design of Tank Circuits of Constant Q;"** R. W. Rogers, G6YR.—How to pick L/C ratios and match impedances of power amplifiers.

P. 336: **"A 25 Mc. Communication Receiver from the R1132A;"** H. E. Smith, G6UH.

P. 338: **"Avoiding Harmonic Generation;"** E. Willis, G6OC.—To avoid TVI, operates VFO on 28 Megacycles.

P. 348: **"Determination of Meter Resistance;"** P. Hughes.

P. 349: **"A Simple S Meter for the BC348;"** A. J. Bayliss, G8PD.

P. 340: **"In the Workshop."**—Files and filing. Shears and tin snips. Cutting large holes. Drilling glass.

"SHORT WAVE NEWS," APRIL, 1950

P. 92: **"A Communication Receiver from the R1132A;"** P. Lamb.

P. 97: **"Seventy Centimetres, Part III.;"**—Super regen receiver using 955.

"SHORT WAVE MAGAZINE," APRIL, 1950

P. 98: **"Two Metres with Three Valves;"** G. Elliot, G3FMO.—6SN7 harmonic c.o. and tripler, QVO4/7 doubler, 832 final. Good sketches of physical layout.

P. 105: **"Screen Control Modulator;"** H. J. Beach, GM8HO.—Economic screen modulation.

P. 108: **"Voice Switching Circuit;"** E. A. Knight, G3HNZ.—Circuits for voice operated break-in.

P. 112: **"Modulation Level Indicator;"** H. Barnett, G2AIQ.—Rectifier and meter across modulator output.

P. 113: **"Dual Purpose Modulator;"** J. N. Walker, G5JU, Part II.—100 watts audio from p.p. EL31s.

P. 127: **"Matching Feeder Lines;"** F. Tillotson, G6XT.—Practical hints for adjusting feeders in particular for 300 ohm twin lead.

"RADIO AND ELECTRONICS," MAY, 1950

P. 4: **"A Sub-Miniature Receiver for Radio Control."**—Full details of 50 Mc. superregen receiver using three hearing aid valves. A battery drain of 75 Ma. at 1.5v., B battery drain 500 microamps. at 22.5v. Receiver, relay, and batteries weigh six ounces.

P. 9: **"Actuator Mechanisms for Radio Control."**

P. 20: **"A Portable Transmitter for Radio Control Work."**—8A5 (or DCC90) self excited oscillator. Three watts output at 50 Mc.

P. 24: **"New Philips Range of Transmitting Valves."**—Discussion of the amateur uses of the QQO6/40, QVO4/7, QB2/300, TB2,5/300, QQE04/20, QQE04/40, and QQC04/15.

"SHORT WAVE NEWS," MAY, 1950

P. 122: **"A Portable Battery Receiver;"** J. N. Walker, G5JU.—Tuned RF stage, regenerative detector, audio. Plug-in coils.

P. 128: **"Seventy Centimetres, Part IV.;"**—Aerials; corner reflector. Sixteen element beam. Twenty-four element beam.

"RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS," MAY, 1950

P. 35: **"Simplified Ham TV Station, Part I.;"** J. R. Popkin-Clurman, W2LNP.—General discussion of the "flying spot" system used.

P. 39: **"Something New in Transceivers;"** E. M. Kortge, W8AHT.—Two metre transceiver with RF unit built into a telephone handset.

P. 51: **"A Supermodulation Phone Transmitter;"** R. P. Turner, K6AI, and J. W. Graves, W6MYR.—829B final using one half as the power amplifier and the other as the positive modulator.

P. 63: **"N.B.F.M. and F.S.K. Unit for Self Excited Oscillator;"** R. W. Jones, W6EDG.—Uses 6SL7 as Miller effect reactance tube.

"CQ," MAY, 1950

P. 11: **"Design Considerations for Class C Power Amplifiers;"** K. L. Klippel, W0SQO.—Simple formulae for Class C calculations.

P. 16: **"Crystal Controlled Walkie-Talkie for Operation on the 144 Mc. Band;"** G. Trewke, W6DSR.—Dry battery operation. Six tube transmitter-modulator; three tube super regen receiver.

P. 18: **"Eliminating TVI in Your Ten Metre Transmitter;"** S. Kupferman, W2GVT.

P. 22: **"Meet the Capacitor;"** R. L. Rod, W2KVY.

P. 25: **"A Midget Communications Receiver;"** R. C. Amundsen, W1HYF.—Two tube superhet covering 80 and 40 metres. 6BE6 mixer, 6J6 regenerative detector and audio.

P. 28: **"Variable Audio Selectivity with the Surplus FL-8 Filter;"** J. P. Tyskewis, W1IXU.

P. 29: **"The Electrical Design of the 20 Metre Wide-Spaced Rotary;"** W. I. Orr, W0SAI.—Good straight forward information on tuning them up.

"RADIO AND ELECTRONICS," JUNE, 1950

P. 37: **"A Sub-Miniature Receiver for Radio Control,"** Part II.—Adjusting and testing.

"SHORT WAVE NEWS," JUNE, 1950

P. 154: **"An Q-V-O Receiver;"** G. H. M. Yule.

P. 157: **"An Efficient Aerial for 28 Mc.;"** H. E. Smith, G6UH.—Two wavelength wire, fed off centre with 100 ohm balanced feeder.

"QST," JUNE, 1950

P. 11: **"Amateur Television—A Progress Report;"** E. P. Tilton, W1HDQ.

P. 16: **"An All-Band Mobile Antenna System;"** S. S. Perry, W1BB.—Quarter wave whip for 2, 6 and 10 metres. Loaded whip for 20, 40, 80 and 160 metres. Details of universal loading coil and adjustment procedure.

P. 19: **"An Impedance Bridge for Less Than Ten Dollars;"** H. Dudley.—Simple bridge for measuring L, C and R.

P. 26: **"Six Metre Coils for the HRO;"** L. G. Windon, W8GZ.—Conversion of a spare coil box for six metres.

P. 28: **"Packaging the Basic Phone Exciter;"** R. W. Bradley, W1FIN.—Miniature construction of s.s.s.c. exciter.

P. 30: **"A Four Tube Bandswitching Circuit for Mobile Rigs;"** W. L. Lin, W9LHF.—6N7 crystal oscillator, doubler, 807 final, 6N7 class B modulator.

P. 34: **"A Noise Limiter for the HRO-M;"** R. W. H. Bloxam, GM6LS.—6H6 limiter for pre-war and war-time HRO's.

P. 36: **"A Low Cost Audio Filter;"** G. F. Montgomery, W3FQB.—Uses two filter chokes and a few condensers.

P. 41: **"Tower and Rotator Techniques;"** L. H. Hippe, W6APQ, Part II.—A rotator, direction indicator and control unit.

P. 56: **"Hints and Kinks"**: (i) Improved b.f.o. circuit for the SX42. (ii) Antenna feed through panel. (iii) Protection for modulation transformers.

"HAM NEWS," MAY-JUNE, 1950

P. 1: **"The Logarithmic Compressor."**—Speech clipper using a copper oxide instrument rectifier instead of diodes for clipping. This has a softer clipping action and an R-C filter can be used instead of the elaborate L-C filters necessary for diode clippers.

P. 7: (i) **"VFO Hi-Lo Switch;"** (ii) **"Proper Care of Crystal Microphones."**

Tribute from Postmaster General

The following letter has been received from the Postmaster General personally commending the Amateurs on their valuable service to the people of Australia concerned in the recent floods in New South Wales.

The Postmaser General says: "In a recent broadcast over 2KM Kempsey in connection with the recent widespread floods in New South Wales, I made appreciative reference to the assistance given by the licencees of Amateur Wireless Stations."

He then continues, "Since then, I have received further information of the part played by members of the Institute, both in the Kempsey area and also in other parts of the State affected. Accordingly, I would now like to confirm in writing the sentiments expressed over 2KM, and to say how pleased I am with the readiness shown, once again, by Amateur Operators to perform a public service, in times of emergency, with the facilities for which they are licensed."

Federal Executive, on behalf of all the Amateurs, have great pleasure in conveying the contents of this letter to members and, on behalf of the Wireless Institute, of thanking those members who participated in this public service for stricken people in the flood areas. Keep up the good work of having reliable equipment available for times of national emergency. It is gratifying to receive such tribute from the Postmaster General and to know that the activities of Amateurs are held in such esteem by high authority. Let us pursue our hobby always on a plane that will maintain this happy relationship.

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Moorabbin & District Radio Club's Honorary Membership Certificate

For the past few weeks the Moorabbin Radio Club has been publicising their publicity scheme in relation to Honorary Membership Certificates. The rules appear below and would suggest that you read them carefully. This is not a competition, but just a thought to foster goodwill among Hams.

The Moorabbin Club has a membership of over 50 including 26 active Hams, working from 80 to 2 metres. The meeting nights are as follows: Second Friday in the month is the practical night, and the third Friday is the general meeting. Club rooms are at the Town Hall, Nepean Highway, Moorabbin. The club's call sign is VK3APC.

RULES OF AWARD

Object.—To promote interest and friendship in VK3 contacts.

1. There are many active transmitting members of the club and to become eligible for the award, Australian mainland stations are to contact, by radio, 14 member stations, including the club's call sign VK3APC.

2. Overseas stations, including ZL and Pacific Islands, to contact any 12 member stations by radio, phone or c.w., not necessarily including the club's call sign, VK3APC.

3. The contacting station to ask if the VK3 being contacted is a member of the Moorabbin and District Radio Club, and then contacted member station may give explanatory details relating to the award.

4. On completion of the required number of contacts, the contacting station to give a list of christian names ONLY, together with dates of all contacts, to the final station.

5. After checking with logs of named stations and finding correct, a certificate of honorary membership will be awarded.

6. Honorary membership will allow all privileges of full membership less the power of vote.

7. This award is not available to club members.

8. Rules and conditions of this award may be amended where necessary (as outlined in Constitution No. 3, paragraph H) by a notice of motion, one month prior to being put to the vote, at a regular meeting of the club. After being duly passed by a majority of its members, the amendments will come into force.

THE EDDYSTONE "750" COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVER

Selectivity.—The answer to the problem of obtaining high adjacent channel selectivity with freedom from image interference is to adopt the double superhet principle as has been done in the "750" receiver. The first i.f. is 1620 Kc and the second 85 Kc. In the 85 Kc. transformers, the coupling between the coils can be varied mechanically to give a wide range of selectivity. At the extreme, the response is 60 db down at 5 Kc. off resonance, giving a very sharp "nose" and almost the highest usable degree of selectivity. This position is for c.w. reception—telephony is still readable but the side bands are cut to a considerable extent.

With the selectivity control at minimum, the response is 30 db down at 5 Kc. off resonance. This still represents a much higher than average selectivity and telephony stations only a few kilocycles apart can be separated easily, whilst maintaining moderately good audio quality. As a matter of interest, provided a loudspeaker of adequate size is used, properly mounted, the quality of speech and music from broadcast stations will satisfy all but the most critical.

Sensitivity and Signal-to-Noise Ratio.—These two features are being dealt with as one, since it is pointless to quote only sensitivity, without reference to the noise level. By adding valve after valve to a receiver the absolute sensitivity can be increased but whether any worth-while improvement in the actual reception of signals takes place depends on how much the noise level increases. Which leads to a point about specifying sensitivity. Most well designed communications receivers will render audible signals having a strength of one microvolt or possibly less, but the information is really useful only when a figure is quoted in comparison with noise. In the "750" the minimum sensitivity is quoted as 5 microvolts for a 20 db signal to-noise ratio—which is an extremely good figure. It simply means that a comparatively weak signal is audible against a very quiet background and this is one of the most noticeable and most appreciated features which immediately claim attention when one comes to use the "750."

It is normal for the sentivity to vary to some degree over each range of a receiver. Sometimes the variation is great, but in the "750" the interstage couplings have been adjusted so that the variation is small. Maintenance of accurate tracking of the ganged condenser also assists considerably in this respect.

Valves.—Of recent years much research has taken place in the development of improved valves and the modern miniature types have many advantages over older valves. One is the short lead-out wires, resulting in low inductance, another the lower anode/grid capacity, achieved by reason of better internal screening—two factors which materially assist in improving the high frequency performance. In the "750," nine miniature valves are employed, plus a rectifier and a neon stabiliser the two latter being of the octal type.

Circuit Line-up.—By reason of careful design and the use of a high slope 6BA6 valve, the r.f. stage gives amplification of a high order. The gain is more than sufficient for all normal purposes and the addition of a second stage, is not justified.

Then follows the first frequency changer, in which position an ECH42 triode-hexode valve is used. The anode of the triode portion is earthed and the oscillator voltage, developed by a separate valve (a 6AM6) is injected into the grid. An increased degree of frequency stability is thereby secured.

The output at 1620 Kc. from the i.f. transformer in the anode circuit of the ECH42 is fed direct to the second frequency changer, another ECH42. Now some may question the absence of an intermediate amplifying stage, so a few words on this will not be out of place. Whether or not an amplifying stage will be of benefit depends on the signal voltage required at the grid of the second frequency changer to ensure a high signal-to-noise ratio. In the "750" the high gain given by the r.f. stage, the good conversion efficiency of the first frequency-changer, and the high "Q" of, and voltage magnification given by the 1620 Kc. i.f. transformer, result in the voltage at the grid of the second frequency-changer being adequate without further amplification.

The oscillator section of the second ECH42 operates at a fixed frequency of 1535 Kc. and the resulting output at 85 Kc. is fed to a high "Q" transformer and amplified by the 6BA6 high slope valve. The coupling between the windings in both transformers are continuously variable by a mechanical linkage controlled by a butterfly knob on the front panel.

There follows a double diode triode, the diodes being employed one for signal detection, the other for a.g.c., the triode section amplifying the audio signal before it is passed on to the high slope N78 output valve. The latter is a new type of Osram manufacture and is capable of giving in excess of 3.5 watts output at a low level of distortion.

One diode of a type 6AL5 valve is used as a series noise limiter, and as a result of the careful attention given to the design, this limiter is strikingly effective and is a great boon in situations where automobile ignition and similar interference is prevalent. The noise limiter has only a slight effect on the general audio level.

The second diode is connected in series with the external "S" meter (when used). By its normal rectifier action, it prevents the flow of current in a reverse direction, and thus prevents the possibility of damage to the 200 microampere movement fitted to the "S" Meter.

The b.f.o. is a completely screened unit, utilising a 6BA6 valve and designed for high stability.

The VR150/30 stabiliser valve regulates the h.t. voltage to the anodes of the oscilator valves, to the screen of the first frequency-changer valve and also to the resistor network associated with the "S" Meter when the latter is used. Finally, there is a 5Z4G rectifier valve.

Special Points about the "750." Attention has already been drawn to the high selectivity and sensitivity possessed by the "750" receiver and there are a number of other features which deserve mention.

The heater circuits are balanced, the centre tap of the transformer winding being earthed. Heater by-pass condensers are used where necessary and stray couplings through the heater wiring minimised. As a result, there is a complete absence of modulation hum right up to the highest frequency—signals with T9 note are heard as T9. The smoothing in the h.t. line is fully adequate and no hum is heard from this source.

Special attention has been given to the noise limiter circuit, not only to make it fully effective but also to prevent the introduction of hum due to heater/cathode leakage. A separate centre tapped winding is employed for the noise limiter valve and a bias system is arranged to ensure that the cathode is positive to the heater.

The transformer fitted to the "750" is of generous size and is capable of providing more power than the "750" actually uses. The transformer therefore runs cool under any conditions. All components are finished for tropical use, the metal has been specially treated to resist corrosion and reliability of a high order is assured even when the receiver is operated in areas of high ambient temperature and humidity.

Tuning Mechanism.—The train of spring-loaded gears forming the tuning mechanism is a fine piece of small engineering. The control knob spindle is flywheel loaded and the movement is smooth and positive. The mean reduction ratio between control knob and gang condenser spindle is approximately 150 to 1, which makes possible very fine tuning. The scale is directly calibrated, a noticeable feature being the linear spacing of the markings. The dial is large, occupying the major portion of the front panel and it is edge-illuminated by three small lamps fitted along the top.

Band-Spread.—Driven from the main gears is a rotating scale, the graduations on which (0-100 divisions) are read off in the opening at the top of the main scale. For every complete revolution of the auxiliary scale, the main pointer moves the length of one major division printed at the bottom of the main scale. In all, the band-spread scale covers 1,500 divisions over each wave range, equivalent to a length of about 32 feet. It follows that ample band-spread is available on each of the Amateur bands, the actual figures being given below. These are based on the allocations made at the Atlantic City Conference.

Band Width	Tuning Coverage on Vernier Scale	Vernier Divisions of Band-spread	Kc. in Band
29.7 to 28 Mc.	34.375"	208	1700
21.45 to 21 Mc.	7.5"	45.5	450
15.35 to 14 Mc.	6.45"	89	350
7.3 to 7 Mc. .	15"	91	300
4 to 3.5 Mc. .	61"	384	500

Absence of Crystal Filter.—The selectivity given by the "750" receiver with the control at maximum is so great that it is practically impossible to make effective use of any greater degree. It is therefore not necessary to go to the expense of adding a crystal filter, with its attendant complications.

Operation on Telephony.—With its high sensitivity and low noise level, the "750" receiver is the ideal for those whose interest lies in the reception of weak telephony, either from Amateur Stations or from far distant Broadcast Stations. The intelligibility of such transmissions can be enhanced by careful adjustment of the selectivity control, which should be at minimum with strong stations and in cases where interference is not present. Unfortunately, under present day conditions, interference is a major problem and occurs only too often. Moving the selectivity control towards maximum will gradually cut it out and only in extreme cases will it be necessary to use the highest possible selectivity.

Automatic gain control in the "750" is most effective and the audio output from a given signal is held within close limits despite severe fading.

C.W. Operation.—Some experience is necessary with any receiver if maximum results are to be secured and the "750" is no exception to this rule. When the b.f.o. is switched on, a.g.c. is cut out (otherwise the sensitivity would suffer). With minimum selectivity, the i.f. transformer couplings are optimum and there is rather more i.f. gain available than is desirable under normal circumstances, hence i.f. gain should be reduced manually.

In the majority of cases, it will be advantageous to use a high degree of selectivity and, with the transformer couplings below optimum, the i.f. gain control should be advanced.

The b.f.o. pitch control gives a variation of 3 Kc. each side of zero beat. Because of the very steep slope of the selectivity curve, it will be found that a signal peaks up on the side to which the b.f.o. pitch is set. When interference is present, it can often be reduced or removed by moving the b.f.o. pitch to the other side of zero beat and then slightly retuning. In effect, single signal reception is possible.

Standby Switch.—The standby switch is fitted with a long "dolly" (operating lever) so that there is no mistaking it from the other switches. The method used for muting the receiver is to increase the bias on the i.f. amplifier valve, with the h.t. remaining on all stages. Two benefits result—the oscillator valves operate under constant conditions thereby maintaining good frequency stability and the receiver is available to monitor the outgoing signal from the associated transmitter.

Pick-Up Terminals.—Provision is made for the use of a standard type crystal or magnetic pick-up and these terminals serve another useful purpose—a signal from a separate monitor (c.w. or telephony) can be fed in and will become audible on the telephones or loudspeaker, thereby rendering unnecessary an external switch.

"S" Meter.—Some operators like to have available an "S" Meter, which instrument can be very useful for comparative reports of telephony transmissions and as a tuning indicator. Other operators, and particularly those whose main interest is c.w., do not require an "S" meter and the latter is therefore made an optional extra. It takes the form of a diecast housing finished to match the receiver and fitted with an octal plug which only has to be inserted in the socket at the rear of the receiver to bring the "S" meter into use.

Power Requirements.—The "750" receiver is designed for operation normally from a.c. mains, 40/60 cycles, a voltage selector panel enabling voltages of 110, 200/220 and 230/25 to be chosen. The consumption from the mains is approximately 70 watts. The transformer is of more than adequate size and runs cool over an extended period. Very generous smoothing is included, with a consequent absence of hum.

On occasions, it may be desired to operate the receiver from a battery supply and a special vibrator unit is available to meet this requirement. Listed under Cat. No. 587/1, this unit is contained in a small cabinet which matches the receiver, and is fitted with plugs for connection to the receiver. The consumption from a 6 volt accumulator is in the region of 6 amperes.

Conclusion.—Although the foregoing description of the new Eddystone Receiver is fairly lengthy, it still does not cover the subject completely, nor do justice to the inherent "know how" which has gone into the design of the receiver. But enough has been said to enable the reader to judge for himself the suitability of the "750" for use in Amateur and Professional Communications and for Broadcast Reception on high and medium frequencies.

The above details have been supplied by the manufacturers—Stratton & Co. Ltd., Birmingham, England—and described by J. N. Walker (G6JU). The Australian Factory Representatives are R. H. Cunningham Pty. Ltd., of 62 Stanhope St., Malvern, Victoria.

DX NOTES BY VK4QL

For the week-end of 12th and 13th August, I don't think there were many VK Hams interested in DX, the attraction being the 1950 Remembrance Day Contest, and what a party Each year this Contest is creating more and more interest, with more and more taking part

Many of the keen DXers who have been hibernating while the DX has been so poor, crept out of their cocoons for this week-end and have apparently gone back to them as I have been unable to get any scores to include in these notes

Conditions in Townsville were rather good for the Contest, 3.5 Mc. on the Saturday night and the lack of DX sigs on 14 Mc. on the Sunday afternoon, enabled us to hear the weaker VK sigs. 4TU and I tried to work 7 Mc. in the early hours of the morning, but more than half a mile is required to let two use that band at such close range. 4TU worked UA4FE on 7 Mc. in the middle of the Contest. Wouldn't it, with me needing Europe for 7 Mc. W.A.C. Two South Africans were also heard in the Contest on this band. The only scores I know of over the 400 mark are: 2PA 617, 2EO 593, 4QL 445, 4TU 425. Have not heard any of the VK6 or VK7 to see what happened over there.

As was anticipated, the DX on all bands has been very erratic and it looked as though these notes were going to have very little in the way of DX news. But, as I always say, you never know when the bands will "turn it on." This was borne out on the 14 Mc. band the week-end following the R.D. Contest, prior to a fade-out on the Sunday afternoon

I find that just before a good fade-out is a real DX time, and this was the case on the Friday and Saturday. I managed six new countries out of the contacts made. I think the most interesting contact was PI1LS, who was on a Dutch weather ship, the QTH being 52°N and 20°E. QSL address is Box 400, Rotterdam.

The next week-end the same thing happened, but the noise level was well down, enabling the weaker DX to be heard. All over the world this year Hams have complained about the high noise level on the 14 Mc. band. Well, this week-end it was missing. The best catch this time was 9S4AX, whose QTH is Saarbruecken, Saar STR9. He advised there are four stations operating in the Saar. Strange to say no "dog pile" formed on him and he made a couple of fruitless CQs and called a couple of VKs with no result. Guess he was thought to be just another commercial in the band

Some of the DX stations who more or less had a prefix to themselves are having competition, e.g. KV4AQ and KV4AU have been worked as well as KV4AA. A number of SP, OE, PJ, and HA calls have been heard. Some of the calls missing from the bands for some time are FN8AD, CR1OAA, FI8ZZ, VR5PL, and FU8AA. CR9AG has left Macao and from what he told me is going on a bit of a world tour.

Some of the rarer calls which have been heard or worked this month are: TG9AD, Box 299 Guatemala City; TA3AA, TA3FAS, UG6WD, 9S4AX QSL via D.A.R.C., PJ5FN, PJ5RE, HS1SS, KS4AC Swan Is., c/o. Tampa Florida; VP1NW, PZ1AL, Box 226, Surnam; PK5AA, Radio Stn. Balik Papan; FQ8AC, Box 175 Bangui; LA4ZZ, VR1B, TF5TP, VP9OO, via VP9D. Except for about two of the above, the stations were heard between 2 p.m. and 11 p.m. E.S.T. QSLs received from TF3AR, VP7NM, VP7NU. One also received from FN8AD for our VK3 contact. Did anybody ever get a QSL from FI8ZZ? Haven't heard of any myself.

A certain VK5 has never heard of the "Gentlemen's Agreement." Was running a sked the other night on phone in c.w. band with PK4DA. DX was coming through fairly well at the time here.

Have you had a look at the Station List in the latest issue of the Short Wave Handbook put out by "Radio and Hobbies?" Did you notice in the overseas station list the number of stations shown operating in the 7 Mc. band? I think 2JU could do the Hams a service if he gets all the details of the broadcasts and submits them to Federal Executive for action to be taken up with the right people What about it John?

● The thought for the month: "The Ham never uses the air for his own amusement in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of other fellow Hams."

DX C.C. LISTING

OPEN

VK3RZ	(4)	40	200
VK6RU	(8)	39	169
VK3KX	(1)	40	167
VK4HR	(7)	40	167
VK6KW	(13)	40	161
VK2DI	(2)	40	160
VK3HO	(3)	40	160
VK3JE	(12)	39	154
VK4EL	(10)	40	140
VK4DO	(15)		140

Endorsement

VK2AHA	(9)		128
VK4PJ	(32)		120

New Members

VK2TJ	(37)		103
VK3HO	(38)		103
VK2TG	(39)	39	100

C.W.

VK2BZ	(6)	40	177
VK3EO	(2)	40	152
VK3GM	(1)	40	151
VK3FH	(15)	39	143
VK3VW	(4)	40	140
VK4EL	(9)	40	140
VK3KB	(10)	39	138
VK2QL	(5)	40	133
VK4HR	(8)	40	131
VK4RF	(11)	35	125

Endorsement

VK4DO	(20)		113

New Members

VK6SA	(28)		136
VK3XK	(30)		105
VK4PJ	(29)		102

PHONE

VK3JD	(1)	37	148
VK3EE	(10)		143
VK6KW	(4)	37	140
VK3BZ	(3)	37	137
VK6RU	(3)	37	135
VK6DD	(6)		126
VK3LN	(11)		125
VK4HR	(12)	35	122
VK4ES	(9)		121
VK4JP	(8)		114

New Member

VK2AHA	(15)		102

IONOSPHERIC PREDICTIONS FOR THE AMATEUR BANDS

OCTOBER, 1950

Nine of the charts, prefixed by the letter "C" for Canberra, refer to forecasts for the South-Eastern Australian States. The remainder, prefixed by the letter "P" for Perth, are for Western Australia.

The Canberra charts refer to the following world zones:—

Zone	Region	Terminal
1	Western Europe	London
2	Mediterranean	Cairo
3	N.-West America	San Francisco
3a	N.-East America	New York
4	Central America	Barbados
5	South Africa	Johannesburg
6	Far East	Manila

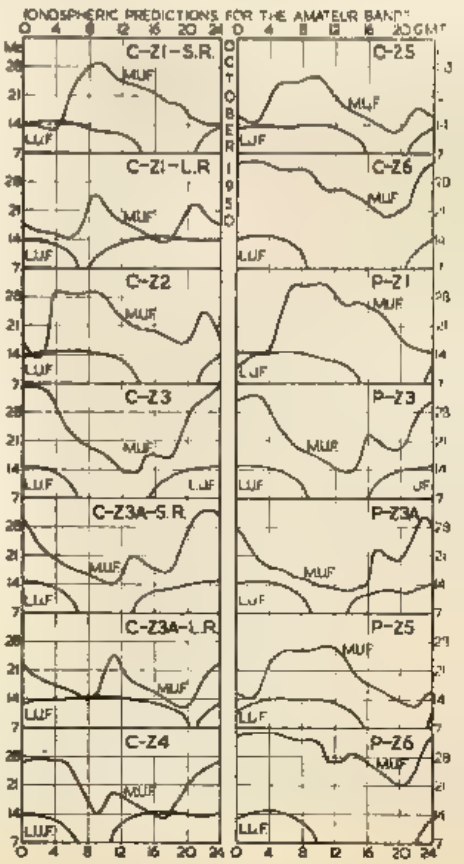
The Perth charts are similar to those based on Canberra.

QUIZ

The Prediction Service welcomes comments on the accuracy of its predictions. In particular, answers to the following questions on the Canberra-San Francisco circuit would be useful:—

1. Were good conditions experienced on 7 Mc. for the period 0700 to 1500 hours G.M.T.
2. Was the 14 Mc. band workable between 1200 and 1500 hours G.M.T.?
3. Was the 28 Mc. band workable for several hours around midnight G.M.T.?

Answers to the Quiz should be sent to the W.I.A. and should, if possible, refer to consistent results obtained on the majority of days in the months.



FIFTY MEGACYCLES AND ABOVE

Compiled by J. K. RIDGWAY, VK3CR.

SYDNEY STATIONS ACTIVE ON 576 Mc.

The following list, sent in by VK2AQZ, gives details of the surprising increase in 576 Mc. activity in the Sydney area.

VK2ANF—Two RL18s, 5 watts, superregen. Rx, corner reflector ant., 12 miles greatest distant.
VK2ALU—Two RL18s, 5 watts, ASB7 Rx, Helix Ant., 13 miles.
VK2ABZ—Two RL18s, 5 watts, superregen. Rx, 16 element ant., 7 miles.
VK2AWZ—Two RL18s, 5 watts, corner reflector ant.
VK2AZO—Two RL18s, 5 watts, superregen. Rx, 4 x 4 ant.
VK2XX—One RL18, 2.5 watts, superregen. Rx, Helix ant., 3rd miles.
VK2YR—One RL18, 2.5 watts, co-ax mixer (1N21 xtal) Rx, H fix ant.
VK2WJ—Two RL18s, 5 watts, superregen. separate quench Rx, 5 x 5 ant., 18 miles.
VK2QBH—Two RL18s, 5 watts, superregen. Rx, 4 x 4 ant.
VK2AJA—Two RL18s, 5 watts.
VK2PU—Two 9012s (on way), superregen. Rx, dipole mesh reflector ant.
VK2XG—Two RL18s, 5 watts.
VK2IO—Superregen. Rx, Helix ant.
VK2ADW—One RL18, 2.5 watts, superregen. Rx, Helix ant.

2WJ and party are planning an expedition to Mt. Boyce (8,775 ft.) on 17th September with 576 and 144 Mc. equipment. 2ANF had an informative letter from VK3 describing the 576 Mc. gear used and the results obtained down south. This has stirred 2AQZ to construct the above table showing the status of equipment and results of Sydney stations who are active on this band. 2IO is the furthest south (by about ¼ mile) station on this band in the Sydney area. Cec Crosbie, with his double conversion superhet, has heard 2ADW, 2AR, 2FK, 2WJ, 2AJA, 2DF, 2ABH, 2AWZ, 2QW, 2XG, 2ANF, and 2XX. Col Geoffries, another non-transmitting member, has a 955 superregen. Rx on 576 Mc.

144 Mc. FIELD DAY AT STAWELL

From 3DS we have news of the 144 Mc. Field Day held at Stawell on 10th September. "There was a good muster of portable gear and much working around the district. Before leaving Ballarat, I arranged with 3ZL (Eric) that we would call and he would listen for us on the hour and half-hour during the afternoon. We set up our station, operated from 12v. via an inverter and also a 12v. No. 11 generator, consisting of my rig, a converted L.F. and three element beam, 300 line fed, and a superhet receiver which belongs to a s.w.l., Ron Wilkinson, also of Ballarat, who accompanied us and which consisted of two stages of p.p broad band 6J6, into a 6AG5 mixer and 955 osc., i.f. at 11 Mc., into a commercial D/W Rx. and which really goes! At Ballarat he receives the Melbourne and Geelong boys, also Kevin, 3AKE, at Westmere, at good strength on a 4 over 4.

"The first hour was a washout, due to a 144 scramble, but we stayed on and listened on a quiet band. First signal heard was 3RR at McRae! Readability 5 strength 5 on peaks with bad QSB; beam directly on Melbourne, no reflections of the ranges. Then Eric from Ballarat at R5 S9 plus. Both these sigs were heard consistently during the afternoon until 1635 when we heard 3BH very weakly and had QSB, but our batteries were nearly out from calling these stations and we had to close, no contacts with these stations having been made."

50 Mc. ACTIVITY

NEW SOUTH WALES

There have been no interstate openings during the month but 2ALT, Newcastle, has been worked from Sydney. 2VW had his beams down and did a re-paint job on the tower. Vaughan hasn't been too well and has been packed off to the mountains for a few weeks where he'll probably haunt the shacks of 2LZ and company. V.h.f. members will miss the Sunday night broadcasts from 2WI. 2XV made a rare appearance on the band and kept his fingers crossed during the QSO, watching the power supply for smoke. Nev. is busy re-conditioning a manual organ which he says is like wiring up a telephone exchange with rubber tubing.

2BO has cleaned out the shack which is apparently a big thing. 2LG has re-appeared on the band after an absence of two years during which he has built up a rig with a pair of 807s in the final. Cliff puts a strong signal into Sydney city albeit from a dipole ten feet high. 2ANF wants to be ready for two and six cross-band contact with Newcastle by the summer time. 2BL is having QRM trouble from car ignition on Pacific Highway and reckons cars should have transmitting licences (a noise generator is not required in College Street either). 2ABH is almost ready to go with a pair of 809s. He has been finding all sorts of resonant circuits in the final stage with his grid dip oscillator. Second op. Jack, at 2XX, is off on a visit to 6 land with a list of gear to bring back. Two "doobie axe" won't sound so west-country for a while. 2ZW makes rare appearances on the band with an 834 in the final. Why so elusive, Stan?

VICTORIA

Rex, 3VI, at Omeo, is now transmitting on 50 Mc each Sunday evening from 1930 to 2000 hours and is looking for contacts. Here is a new contact for the v.h.f. gang, so watch the band for his signal to break through. 3XW and 3XY have both been presented with harmonic oscillators and both XYLs are doing well, likewise the harmonics. Congratulations are offered to Ken and Don.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA (by C. H. Castle, VK5KL)

Each month these notes will appear by the above writer to fulfill a long-felt want and request to the VK5 Council by the country members to whom the main contact with the city affairs is via this magazine. My whole interest is in v.h.f. and I have a practical understanding of the country members difficulties on the v.h.f., having spent three years in Darwin operating 50 Mc without local support. In the lacking of personal pars and doings, owing to the shortness of time this month, I would like to be considered as a question box. So country members, send me your v.h.f. problems and where possible I will try to solve them. Write me your activities to 55 Rose Terrace Wayville, or if in town, ring U 2546.

With the weather improving and the DX season approaching, now is the time to check over your gear or finish off new equipment. December 1 can be considered as the start of the real DX, so go to it chaps. 5JD has re-erected his 50 Mc. four element beam, but the prop. motor is not attached as yet. 5GL still re-broadcasting W.I.A. session on Sundays on 144 Mc. Has nice collection of xtal converters for all bands. 5MK heard on 7 Mc. phone; why the migration Ron? 5GB inactive recovering from appendix operation. 5KL has a xtal converter under construction, have 6-4 Mc. xtal operating on fifth harmonic for the oscillator. Well chaps, I hope to have a good round up next month.

FEDERAL, QSL, and DIVISIONAL NOTES

Federal President: W. R. GRONOW (VK3WG); Federal Secretary: G. M. HULL (VK3ZS). Box 2611W, G.P.O., Melbourne.

NEW SOUTH WALES

President.—J. Corbin, VK2YC.
Secretary.—David H. Duff (VK2EO), Box 1734 G.P.O., Sydney.
Meeting Night.—Fourth Friday of each month at Science House, Corner Gloucester and Essex Sts., Sydney.
Divisional Sub-Editor.—A. C. Pearce, VK2AHB, 131A Balmain Rd., Leichhardt, N.S.W.
Zone Correspondents.—**Nth. Coast & Tablelands:** J. M. Retallick, VK2XO, Raleigh; **Newcastle:** H. Whyte, VK2AHA, Vale St., Birmingham Gardens, Newcastle; **Coalfields and Lakes:** H. Hawkins, VK2YL, 27 Comfort Ave., Cessnock; **Western:** W. H. Stutt, VK2WH, Cumbijowa, Forbes; **South Coast and Southern:** R. H. Rayner, VK2DO, 42 Perth St., Nass; **Western Suburbs:** A. C. Pearce, VK2AHB, 131A Balmain Rd., Leichhardt; **Eastern Suburbs:** H. Kerr, VK2AX, No. 4 Flat, 144 Hewlett St., Bronte; **North Sydney:** L. D. Cuffe, VK2AM, 779 Military Rd., Mosman; **St. George:** J. A. Ackerman, VK2ALG, 32 Park Rd., Carlton; **South Sydney:** V. H. Wilson, VK2VW, Cr. Wilson St. and Marine Pde., Maroubra.

VICTORIA

President.—G. S. C. Semmens, VK3GS.
Secretary.—C. Dyer (VK3DY), 19 Codrington Ave., Brighton (XA 6326).
Administrative Secretary.—Mrs. S. May, Law Court Chambers, 191 Queen St., Melbourne, C.1.
Meeting Night.—First Wednesday of each month at the Radio School, Melbourne Technical College.
Zone Correspondents.—**Western:** C. C. Waring, VK3YW, 12 Skene St., Stawell; **South Western:** K. O'Rorke, VK3AKR, Killigrew, Westmere; **North Eastern:** T. K. Tennant, 18 Harold St., Shepparton; **Far North Western:** M. Folie, 101 Lemon Ave., Mildura; **Eastern:** H. O. Kellas, VK3AHK, Tinamba; **North Western:** C. Cass, VK3ACE, Cumming Ave., Birchip.

WI BROADCASTS

All Amateurs are urged to keep these frequencies clear during, and for a period of 15 minutes after, the official Broadcasts.

VK2WI.—Sundays, 1100 hours EST, 7196 Kc. and 2000 hours EST 50 and 144 Mc. No frequency checks available from VK2WI Intra-State working frequency, 7175 Kc.

VK3WI. Sundays, 1130 hours EST, simultaneously on 3580 and 7196 Kc. and re-broadcast on 50 and 144 Mc. bands. Intra-State working frequency 7185 Kc. Individual frequency checks of Amateur Stations given when VK3WI is on the air.

VK4WI.—Sundays, 0900 hours E.S.T. simultaneously on 3750 Kc., 7196 Kc., 14343 Kc., 52.4 Mc. and 144.138 Mc. Frequency checks are given two nights weekly, and the times are announced during Sunday broadcasts. 7065 Kc. channel is used from 1000 to 1030 hours each Sunday as VK4 query service to VK4WI.

VK5WI.—Sundays, 1000 hours S.A.S.T., on 7196 Kc. Frequency checks are given by VK5DW by arrangement only on the 7 and 14 Mc. bands.

VK6WI.—Sundays, 0930 hours W.A.S.T., on 7196 Kc. No frequency checks available.

VK7WI.—Second and Fourth Sundays at 1000 hours E.S.T. on 7196 Kc. No frequency checks are available.

QUEENSLAND

President.—J. F. Pickles, VK4FP.
Secretary.—W. L. Stevens, VK4TB, Box 638J G.P.O., Brisbane.
Meeting Night.—Third Friday in each month at the I.R.E. Rooms, Wickham St., Valley.
Divisional Sub-Editor.—F. H. Shannon, VK4SN Minden, via Rosewood.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

President.—E. A. Barbier, VK5MD.
Secretary.—G. M. Bowen, VK5XU, Box 1234K, G.P.O., Adelaide.
Meeting Night.—Second Tuesday of each month at 17 Waymouth St., Adelaide.
Divisional Sub-Editor.—W. W. Parsons, VK5PS 483 Esplanade, Henley Beach.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

President.—R. W. S. Hugo, VK6KW.
Secretary.—W. E. Coxon, VK6AU, 7 Howard St. Perth.
Meeting Place.—Padbury House, Cnr. St. George's Ter and King St., Perth.
Meeting Night.—Third Tuesday of each month.
Divisional Sub-Editor.—Alec A. Smith, VK6AS, 75 Weston St., Carlisle, Western Australia.

TASMANIA

President.—J. Brown, VK7BJ.
Secretary.—R. D. O'May, VK7QM, Box 371B, G.P.O., Hobart.
Meeting Night.—First Wednesday of each month at the Photographic Society's Rooms, 168 Liverpool St., Hobart.
Divisional Sub-Editor.—S. Excell (VK7SJ), 77 Molle Street, Hobart, Tasmania.
Northern Zone Correspondent.—R. H. Kilby, VK7RK, 5 Galvin Street, Launceston.

FEDERAL

REMEMBRANCE DAY CONTEST

Members have caused considerable delay and inconvenience by forwarding Contest Logs direct to the Federal Secretary instead of to their respective Divisional Councils. With all Federal Contests it is necessary that members forward their logs to the Divisional Council in order that their financial status and membership can be confirmed. The Divisional Councils are then responsible to see that logs are forwarded to the Federal Contest Committee for checking.

Members are therefore asked to remember to do this, and by so doing help the already overburdened Federal staff to have the final results available for publication within a reasonable time after the conclusion of a Contest.

● **Some members still omit to sign their logs! Remember this mistake makes your log invalid because anyone can type or write a list of contest contacts and put your call sign at the top. Your signature, checked against your original application form signature, proves the authenticity of your log entry.**

DX C.C. MANAGER

With the greatly increased membership of the W.I.A. it has been found necessary to expand the staff of Federal Executive to cope with the increase of secretarial work involved, which in turn we hope will increase the efficiency of Federal Executive to the benefit of all members.

In this regard VK3BZ, G. I. Morris ("Morrie"), has gladly accepted the honorary position of DX C.C. Manager and will be speeding up the presentation of this certificate to claimants. "Morrie" has also indicated his willingness to check W.A.S. 50 Mc. and Above for members interested in the v.h.f. bands.

● **To avoid the necessary delay involved in forwarding cards to G.P.O. Box 2611W, members are asked to forward their verification cards direct to "DX C.C. Manager, G. I. Morris, Esq., 50 Eighth Street, Parkdale, Victoria."**

In the meantime, members who have claimed DX C.C. and W.A.S. 50 Mc. Certificates and not yet had them issued, are asked to be patient for a week or two until the system becomes operative. Your Certificates have not been lost!

SILENT KEY

VK2ZS

It is with deep regret we announce the passing of Gerry Challender, VK2ZS, on Monday, 4th September, 1950.

FEDERAL CONSTITUTION ALTERATIONS

F.E., on behalf of the Federal Council of the W.I.A., hereby gives notice that it is intended to alter the Federal Constitution of the W.I.A. (as amended 1947).

Section 41A, as follows:—Delete the word "thirty" and insert the word "fourteen" in lieu thereof.

Add 67A, **Membership Transfers:** "Where a member transfers from one Division to another (1) The recipient Division shall receive him as a financial member for the remainder of the financial year provided he was fully financial before departing from the losing Division. (2) The Secretary of the losing Division shall advise the Secretary of the recipient Division of the intending transfer and of the member's financial status and grade."

Add 43A: "That in matters of finance involving all Divisions, a majority vote of at least 5 to 2 of the Federal Council be required for the passing of the motion."

DX C.C. CERTIFICATES

Because of repeated criticism of the existing DX C.C. Certificates, Divisional Councils in each State have been requested to forward to Federal Executive their Division's comments on the quality and standard of this Certificate preparatory to requesting specimen designs for a new Certificate.

Members who are competent with the drawing board are asked to take an interest when this matter is brought up in their Division and submit designs. Don't leave it to the other member!

W.I.A. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Sept. 22-24: VK-ZL DX Contest (c.w.).
Sept. 29-Oct. 1: VK-ZL DX Contest (phone).
October 6-8: VK-ZL DX Contest (c.w.).
October 13-15: VK-ZL DX Contest (phone).

ADDITIONS, ALTERATIONS, AND DELETIONS TO AMATEUR CALL SIGNS—AUGUST, 1950

Additions—

VK2BQ—G. C. Page, 59 Simpson St., Tumut.
2ACN—R. S. Nancarrow, 1A Parklands Ave., Lane Cove.
2AHC—R. H. Corcoran, 23 Glasgow Ave., Bondi.
2AIF—J. C. Fairweather, 355 Fisher St., Broken Hill.
2APB—K. H. Branford, 1 Centennial Ave., Lane Cove.
2APF—H. J. Freeman, 90 Rosemont St., Punchbowl.
2ATR—E. F. T. Reynolds, c/o. S.S. "Mungana."
2AWM—D. J. Medley, 10 Kennett St., Bondi.
VK3AHG—D. G. Gilder, 58 Clarendon St., East Melbourne.
VK3AOS—O. K. Scouller, 878 Mt. Alexander Road, Essendon.
3AVM—V. R. McKenna, Christian Bros. College, Queensberry St., North Melbourne.
3AZW—T. Lelliott, Owen Street, Boronia.
VK4KN—E. D. Neale, 86 Felix St., Woolcowin, Brisbane.
4FQ—J. F. Murdoch, 39 Godsall St., Toowoomba.
VK5EA—R. L. Archibald, 3 Penong St., Hyde Park.
5EC—G. E. A. Cameron, Flying Doctor Base, Alice Springs, N.T.

Alterations—

VK2DP—176 Albion Street, Annandale.
2JU—108 Quarry Road, North Ryde.
2ML—Lot 46, Smith Avenue, North Manly.
2NB—17 Bray Avenue, Earlwood.
2OG—"Bushlands," 15 Linden Avenue, Pymble.
2QT—35 Sunnyside Crescent, Castlecrag.
2YI—61 Leura Road, Auburn.
2AID—"Marell," Fernleigh Road, Wagga.
2AJU—108 Quarry Road, North Ryde.
2AKT—7 Chelmsford Avenue, Epping.
2APD—53 Prince Street, Mosman.
2ARD—65 O'Donnell Street, North Bondi.
2AST—37 Gordon Rd., Long Jetty, via Gosford.
2AWJ—25 Hendy Avenue, Collaroy.

VK3OC—5 Service Street, Ballarat.
3HU—9 Bethell Avenue, Parkdale.
3NW 1 Oxford Street, Box Hill.
3NZ—141 3 Beach Road, Mentone.
3AAB—232 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne.
3ADA—R.A.A.F. Station, East Sale.
3AFW 1 Cope Street, Coburg.
3AGN—8 Fairmont Road, Newtown, Geelong.
3ANW—1 Oxford Street, Box Hill.
3ARE—Kent Road, Hamilton.
3ASB—25 Wellman Street, Box Hill.
3AXB—Flat 3, 15 Jersey Street, Balwyn.
VK4KD—Chester Street, Thursday Island.
4ZB—57 Ridge Street, Northgate
VK5BJ—79 Alexandra Street, Prospect
5KV—8 Saltram Road, Glenelg
5RZ—8 Burgan Street, Broadview
VK6ZI —43 Salisbury Street, Leederville
6GK c/ Flying Doctor Service, Meekatharra.
6KX—47 Cecil Street West Perth.

Deletions—

VK2GC—Cancelled, now operating under VK5EC
2NV—Cancelled, now operating under VK3AHG.
2AMA—Cancelled.
VK4AVN Cancelled.
VK4BD—Cancelled.
VK5AE—Cancelled, now operating under VK2AWM
5BW—Cancelled, now operating under VK4TU
5FV Cancelled, now operating under VK2AD
5HB—Cancelled, now operating under VK5APB.
5RL—Cancelled.
VK6SN—Cancelled.

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FEDERAL QSL BUREAU

RAY JONES, VK3RJ, MANAGER

The new address for the Canal Zone QSL Bureau is: KZ5JP, Isaac R. Price, Box 64, Diablo Heights, Canal Zone.

The I.A.R.U. Short Wave Amateur Convention of 1950 was held in Bad Homburg, near Frankfurt (Main), Germany, from 8th to 10th September. A comprehensive programme to entertain and instruct all visitors and members was scheduled and included lectures on all aspects of the technical side of Amateur Radio. An exhibition of Amateur built equipment was held, and numerous competitions including a 2 metre and an 80 metre foxchase was arranged. Other entertainment included tombolas and auctions. The post office provided a special stamp for mail matter. The entire function was broadcast by the Convention station DL0KT over the Amateur Bands. Many visitors from adjacent nations were present at the Convention.

KZ5ks in forwarding QSLs states, "If possible you might let the fellows know that if I owe them cards, I have not received theirs, and my log for dates previous to June, 1950, has been lost. I will be pleased to QSL these if they will apply direct. His QTH is Box 337, Diablo Heights, Canal Zone.

For the benefit of v.h.f. enthusiasts, XE1A advises that in addition to operating on the 80, 40, 20 and 10 metre bands during the forthcoming VK-ZL Contest, he will be running continuously on 50.052 Mc. and desires reports on reception.

Yet another for the certificate hunter. The S.S.A. is sponsoring an award for Hams who have worked the whole seven Swedish districts. European stations have to send in cards proving they have had two contacts with each of the seven districts. Non-Europeans have to send in cards proving one contact with each of the districts. Contacts must be post war. An application for the award must be accompanied by ten international reply coupons and be forwarded to S.S.A., Stockholm 4, Sweden.

CR3MC heard during August/September on 14 Mc. c.w., gives his QTH as Sliao Box 1 Tainhu, Taiwan.

VR4AA is no longer active, but a new Ham is there and active on 14 Mc. c.w. only under the call sign of VR4AC.

Wm. Cronin, VK0JC in writing to this Bureau, mentions that 28 Mc. is very dead up there, but that 20 is OK and also that he has yet to hear a signal above S2 on 7 Mc. His full QTH is A296 L.A.C. Cronin, W., VK0JC Transmitting Station, R.A.A.F., Admiralty Islands.

HZ1AU, whose cards come from U.S.A., states, "I will confirm for all QSLs sent via I.A.R.U. Card for card."

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NEW SOUTH WALES

The monthly meeting of the Division was held at Science House, Gloucester Street, Sydney, on Friday, 25th August, and the meeting was opened at 7.45 p.m. The correspondence was read and received, and a large number of applicants admitted to membership of the Institute. Visitors present included Peter Haldemann, HB1HL, who is visiting this country. Peter expressed great pleasure in being able to come along and meet the boys. Also present was ZL3BX, who brought up that hardy perennial of ZL concern over VK interference on the DX bands. The President, Mr. J. Corbin, VK2YC, expressed the pleasure of the meeting in having VK2HJ, one of the licenced lady Amateurs, present.

A proposal was put forward that the Prime Minister's Department should be approached, for the supply of QSL cards, descriptive of the Australian scene. This is in view of the statement made by Mr. Menzies, on his return from overseas, regarding the cementing of friendship with the U.S.A. and its peoples, and presumably other countries. Correspondence received from the Queensland Division referred to interference caused to broadcasts from VK4WI, and the President, 2YC, asked that members endeavour to cause less interference on the official channels used by VK4WI.

Dr. Allison, ex-VK1BA, was unable to be present and colour films taken on Heard Island are scheduled for early showing circumstances permitting.

VK2XU, as Master of Ceremonies, dispersed "prizes" from the Disposals lucky dip, and great fun was had by all. Competition became very keen for sought-after items, and a vote of thanks to Wal for his good work was passed by acclamation. The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.

VALE VK2ZS

The Council of the N.S.W. Division of the W.I.A. regrets having to inform members that it received, on Monday, 4th September, an intimation that our esteemed friend and colleague, Gerry Challender, VK2ZS, passed away.

Gerry was widely known in the Amateur ranks and was one of our most popular VK2s and attained distinction by the capable manner he undertook his arduous duties in the North Coast Net during the recent disastrous Kempsey floods. Since his return from war service, Gerry's health had been indifferent and, as a result of his activity on the public's behalf in the floods, he was committed to Kempsey Hospital in a serious condition. Fortunately he recovered sufficiently to be discharged to his home and it appeared that he was daily improving. On Monday, the 4th, however, he suffered a relapse and failed to rally. His friends were shocked to hear that he passed away at 3 p.m. So passes from our midst a lovable character, a good husband and father, and a sincere and affectionate friend. Vale, Gerry!

To his widow and two sons the Council and all members of the Institute extend their sincere and heartfelt condolences and expressions of sympathy.

The Wireless Institute of Australia was represented at the funeral by Mr. Col Fletcher, VK2ASF, one of Gerry's close friends, who placed a wreath on the grave on behalf of members of the Institute. The Hunter Branch of the N.S.W. Division of the Institute was represented by Jim Cowan, VK2ZC; also present was Peter Alexander, VK2PA.

WESTERN SUBURBS

2AMJ, Joyce, has been getting excellent reports from Europe lately, using her new 3 element beam. 2NJ has been grabbing all the DX around the place. None of these beams for Keith. Just a staid old full wave antenna; nice quality phone. 2APT has his new beam; now all the locals are waiting to see how it works; there is keen competition among the DX chasers. 2XH has been delving into the mysteries of making v.f.o's. tick, will be homing onto the rare ones soon. 2AHU's poles are still standing, many a bag of cement went into the foundations.

2ANA, nothing has been heard of Frank but no doubt the beam is up and plenty of work is being done in the new shack. 2BX works the Ws with alarming regularity using a vee beam. 2ADL has settled in at the new Ledcombe location and although his folded dipole is only on the roof, has been receiving 89 reports from the U.S.A. 2OQ has 112 countries up on phone with the same old 30 watts to an 807; hopes desperately that they will QSL, the two element beam is working well. 2BN had a three-way QSO with VN4CB and another rare one on 7 Mc. recently. 2ACD has just put up a new half wave dipole and is getting good interstate reports; keep at it Ted and the DX may soon roll in.

NORTH COAST AND TABLELANDS

Rain, rain, rain and more rain, together with poor conditions, have been the order of the day in the zone with the one exception, a rare bit of DX collected by 2SH. Doug called five long CQs with no results and on his sixth CQ a strong signal came back from Mars, the operator giving his handle as Smokeinski. Does anyone know of another Ham working Mars? If not, Doug claims it as a world's record. Another record for the North Coast is the Quads owner/operator, the one and only Percy Sara, Associate Member W.I.A., of Bellingen. Perc hopes to get his ticket very soon and the Department should give Percy the first VK four letter call sign VK2QUAD. Good luck to you Percy, your wife and family from all Radio Amateurs. 2JO is having a visit to Sydney to the Dental Conference and no doubt Hart will be seeing a number of the gang down there. 2PA and wife are on their way to Sydney on holidays by car and as usual Peter's portable can be heard on 40.

2JK has another harmonic. 2AJT going to Sydney on holidays, liable to be found in any junkshop. The Lismore gang have been very quiet of late, mostly working 6. 2UC just completed a new six metre beam and is putting a consistent signal to 2ADE at Casino. 2LH also erecting beams for 6. 2AUE has staged a comeback and is working on 40. 2SL building a concrete mixer to help build his home. 2AFP now at Byron Bay is back on the air at his new QTH. 2AGM does more listening than transmitting and drops in on 80 some times. 2AAP has returned home from hospital and was soon on the air with his No. 11. If Norm can obtain the wire, he will be putting up a vee beam from hill to hill, attached to two 100 feet dead trees, the centre would be 600 feet above the ground! No news from 2TO, only that Alex intends to have his holidays around this district.

2ASF active on 40 and works DX on 40 with his Command. Col is the most active member on the Coast. Col can confirm 2SH's contact with Mars! 2AEV had a rush trip to Sydney and brought back a number of 1190's for the North Coast Emergency Net. 2DK not very active, too busy with the sheep at present. 2APS putting out an f.b. signal with his new transmitter and antenna. Russ Watt still finds time to come on the air at night on 80 with his vee beam and always puts a strong signal to the coast. Russ says his XYL is studying the morse and hopes to have her ticket very soon. 2ZX heard testing during daylight on 80. 2OE and 2GJ not very active. Keith has had the wife and family sick and has been chief cook for the last week. 2ARY has been busy in Bellingen and hitting the headlines with Percy and the Quads.

2ADN busy building a new QRO rig with band-switching and 813 in final. A newcomer to the North Coast gang is Bill Grant, 2AWG. Bill is a few miles out from Coffs Harbour. 2BA busy with six metres and hopes to contact 2UJ. Leith works ZL on 80 metres with five watts and super modulator.

HUNTER BRANCH

Members of the Hunter Branch are still talking about the wonderful lecture given by Mr. Angus Robinson on f.m. Lectures of this standard are doing a wonderful job for the Institute in getting new members, and holding the interest of old. While on membership, it is pleasing to note that at each meeting a couple of new members join the Branch. Old timer 2ZW, who attended a recent meeting of the Branch, must surely have been proud to see the Branch so firmly established. Stan was, as ex-President of the Newcastle Radio Club, As the September meeting was the annual meeting, we saw the election of officers. Congratulations to the new office bearers and let us see next year one of even greater progress. Once again the State President 2YC and Councillors made the trip up from Sydney for the meeting.

The R.D. Contest went off with a bang and a large number of Branch members participated, but there were some who didn't, and we will fine them an 813 or something next year if they don't—so watch out. The DX fiends of the Branch are all "steamed" up for big scores in the VK-ZL DX Contest.

2CW has been on holidays at Nelson's Bay during the month. Sorry to hear junior up was sick, Bill. Also on holidays was 2AMJ, Ron was down the Lake and had a good time, even took a portable with him. 2ANA still reckons his homebrew Rx takes some licking after long comparisons with the RA10. The family must have kicked Norm out of the kitchen as the RA10 is now beside the main Rx. 2UY still not active, is doing a new course. 2NX lost a bit of interest in Ham Radio recently. My spy even reports Shorty at local dances while home week-ends. Would you believe it—2AFS and 2FP were able to work PK4KS on 10 in the dead of a winter's night.

That vertical at 2AQY's shack comes into its own when conditions are "screwy." Things are serious over at Stockton as 2AMJ is still on c.w. and working plenty of DX. Bill managed a big score in the R.D. Contest. 2PT has moved to New Lambton so guess he will be back on again very soon now. 2AMJ shows just what can be done with QRP if you have a beam, using only 10 watts. Ron is working plenty of DX, 80 from Ws, countries are sneaking up, has XE, TG, W, KH6, I, etc., and the antenna is still only about 30 feet high. Also have a report that a new Ham is on at Stockton, namely Col London, 2AOL, up at the Fort. Would someone in that area please see he gets AWL one meeting night.

The big news in the Newcastle area is the appointment of Wal Salmon, 2SA, Police Superintendent in charge of this area. OT's will remember Wal and his activities in the past. Branch members welcome 2SA to the district and hope to see him along at Branch meetings. Due to a printer's error, Varley Fitten's call was wrongly given. It is 2SF (Sugar Fox), sorry Varl. Hope to see you on soon. 2XT has been working the DX on 40 with his QRP W, VE, PK, etc. Has the pipe for a 10 20 beam so things are serious. 2CI only heard on the week-ends on 40 and 80. Gordon likes a yarn not a QSO (remember Urunga). Although he will have to improve if he is to hold the honors won there—2ASF will take some beating. 2AWD only on 40 occasionally. 2BZ is back on 6 and 2

after a long absence, has made some very fine QSOs with 2VW on 2, not bad for winter conditions! The tower at 2OS Thornton is still receiving much attention.

2ADS is very QRL at the new QTH, but hopes to have gear ready for the DX season on 6. The 10/20 beam at 2ON's went up very easily. Bert was amazed, it took only about an hour. Although only 25 feet high at present, it is to go higher. 2AGD going well with the portable on 40 and 80 having fun with it too. Remember George, I told you 40 and 80 was fun! 2MO is still checking meters, but not Ham rig meters. 2XY still passing the time on 40, gets plenty of c.w. DX too. 2TE blew up his modulation transformer, but now has a super one working well. 2ZT has lots of fun on 40 c.w. and is another that does well with QRP. Mac 2ARK is at Stockton P.O. now we hear, but is still inactive. 2ZC put up the highest R.D. Contest score for the Hunter Branch next to 2PA and 2EO we learn, congrats Jim. Don't miss any time next year Jim. 2AAM comes on at lunch time on 40 from Belmont. 2ABA will be on again soon, now has a No. 51 and a good receiver.

2FX hopes to make it soon. The v.f.o. at 2KG's is at a stand-still—has been very QRL. The August sked of the Hunter Branch Emergency Net went off very well—the September sked has been put forward a week to miss the VK ZL Contest. Thanks to 2XQ and gang you can't miss these c.w. gents. The Net is still in need of 3501 (or lower) stats—doesn't anybody read these notes?! 2XQ, the Net Control Officer, is getting very "eagey" these days to make it a bit harder—it is too simple on 3501 Kc. at night—the next sked will be on 7002 Kc. on Sunday afternoon. 2XQ put in some good work in the R.D. Contest.

2TY has been on holidays in Grenfell to see 2ADX. Bob didn't think he would make it at one stage of the proceedings. 2JZ not very active only heard on 10. 2ARP has a portable going well, but the big rig has some modulating trouble. 2ANL was only active a couple of times during the recent flood. 2ANT with his "4 kw." rig getting out well. 2VI missed on the last sked—must be getting ready for the DX on 6. 2IG silent but expect to hear loud noises from that way in the VK-ZL Test. West disappointed man in Newcastle last month was 2ABA, was all set to go in the R.D. Contest, but missed out due to family illness. Will make up for it in the VK-ZL Contest though.

COALFIELDS AND LAKES

Conditions have been poor on most bands during the last month, were hoping things would improve with the warm weather—especially on the v.h.f's. The old 80 metre band has been the mainstay for sometime now. 2ANU still doing good work with his few watts, been busy with the shearing season, but managed to get up a rotary beam for 50 and seems pleased with the idea. Has been getting some calibrations for his 144 Mc. set-up. Singleton been kept on the map by 2JZ on 28 and by 2VU who seems to be sticking to 50 with some sessions on 3.5 Mc. 2TY can be found on 80, 10 and 6 talking of getting a v.f.o. going. The Kurri Kurri gang are not very active, don't hear 2YO and 2KF much—are found on 28 and 50 when active. 2KZ also fairly quiet these days. Max only gets on at the week-end due to working consistently through the week. 10 and 6 are his favorite haunts. 2ALR is seldom heard, plenty of gear but busy otherwise.

2PZ has a few more bits and pieces wired in. Tx and Rx running, it shouldn't be long now! 2YL is another whose activities are limited due to lack of spare time, active on 80 and 6 when time permits, hopes to set up small rig on 144 Mc. 2AIT (Always Doing Things) has done it again, yes Jack has done something else, knocked his xtal mike off the table and fractured the xtal. Fortunately it was only the xtal that broke and Jack didn't feel half so bad when, after picking it up again, he found that his specially made and highly polished case had not been marked or dented. Last I heard Jack was back on, fractured xtal stuck together, talking of making a new xtal for the mike. Also has just put up a new four element beam on 50 Mc. Has frequency meter finished and calibrated. This being Jack's busy time (school holidays), he can be found on any band from 80 + 2 metres—anything.

At last I can have notes of the Lakes, they are much appreciated, and my thanks to 2ARV for letter and 2RU who sent notes via 2ADT. 2ARV from Chittaway Point is only home at week-ends and though licenced for past 12 months, didn't get on till 5th August using 6V6 807 with 25 watts 7 Mc. c.w. Tried QSO was with 4XP who, prior to the war, was 2XP at Wyong—there was some talk of Wyong pre-war. Chas reports 2OC and 2TX not heard at all. 2CZ can be found on 6 and 40. 2AEZ not very active these days, recently joined staff at 2UE. 2ARS another not very active but plays golf and is also a pilot which keeps him busy. 2LX not active since June when storm wrecked his antenna systems. 2GA is on 6, 20 and 40 while at Avoca Beach. 2EH gets on 80 now and again on battery supply. 2KR for a change fairly quiet, working 40 only, but going to try 80. 2AIO from the Entrance not heard, same goes for 2AMU —how's the stars Len? Any DX? 2RU has added a Qser to his 1-1. receiver, working 6 and 40 between times. Major can be found mixing concrete putting down paths—been seen pushing a wheelbarrow away from his pet hill—reputedly moving dirt, but the gang say he is moving the hill so he will make ZL next season on 6—which is it Major?

WESTERN SUBURBS

Have gone through this month's notes and every time the word "flood" appeared the red pencil went to work. Still can't get away from 'em though and 2YN at Bourke has been in the swim this month. As John is the only Ham at Bourke, he welcomed the arrival of the "Ducks" with their complement of radio men. 2JC helped pilot the "Ducks" through to Nyngan where 2QA took over. Jack got careless and lost one and frantic calls were heard on 3.5 Mc. looking for DKH. The other plays some funny tricks and the boys over Cessnock way say that the "DKH" went through "DKX" to "Duck Eggs." Upset Jack so much he murmurred something about his gun and missed out on a sked with 3BD.

New call to these notes is 2NN. Don is at Narrabri West and will be remembered as old 2DM. After a very long silence, 2FH, St. Mary's, popped up on 7 Mc. c.w. with a new rig, 813 final to be modulated by a pair of 811s. House building has kept Alan off the air.

2HT Katoomba heard only once during the month on 7 Mc. phone as also 2OV. Jack did good job in the AQR test. Katoomba seemed to be the "most favoured zone." 2EL, Parkes, has his new xmitter going now. Pair T21s modulated by a pair of 2.5s. Wonder how many Hams can find a 250 in their shacks? Thanks for the other Parkes news Lan. 2SJ has been on 7 Mc. phone but suffering receiver troubles. 2KN rarely active and 2UJ at Mudgee, QRM'd by rabbits.

Round Forbes, things have been very quiet. 2BT still putting the finishing touches to the perfect switched transmitter. 2AMV really on 50 Mc. now with a converted 522 and planning a 50 Mc. beam and an automatic caller. 2WH mainly keeping (?) skeds on 6 with 2AMV. A new lathe is occupying some of the shack space and a lot of Ham time. Another good Ham left the West Zone: 2SA has been transferred to Newcastle. Sorry we didn't make that personal QSO while you were out West Wal. 2II (that's Item Item not eleven!) still pops up for a rare contact on 7 Mc. Likewise 2AMR and 2XP. Other Dubbo Hams silent.

2ADX, Grenfell, putting out fine signal on eighty. Jack is expecting a visit from 2TY and promises activity on six after that. 2NS nearly finished new frequency meter which will make Bathurst the WWV of VK2. Believe the new job will almost tune a piano, and certainly split the Kc. to a cycle, if not the atom. Would hate to see you become radio-active Ted! Have heard of, but not from, 2ACU during the month. Believe Rod is off to the Coast—not enough water round Coonamble. No not a word about floods—till next month. 2LY has moved to new QTH and terrific noises will be heard from North Katoomba soon. 2EX has acquired another transformer and is on 40 phone. 2HZ at last made the grade and is operating from a linen press, tired of QRP already, so will go QRO.

SOUTH COAST AND SOUTHERN

Activity in the zone this month was very much below that of previous months. The R.D. Contest brought a few stations out of their winter hibernation. 2PN was heard actively engaged in the Test and a brief exchange of scores had us fairly closely grouped. 2APP was another very active, but we haven't heard his score to date. He had an excellent signal and seemed to be holding his own. 2PI heard but his signal lacked the usual punch that is usually associated with his transmissions. According to Les, the gang in Canberra are very quiet, he reports nothing happening of interest over there. 2JQ heard late in the Contest working stations hand over fist. No news of the Goulburn or Wollongong gang. 2ALs has been far too busy to play Ham Radio and he complains of the cold weather.

2AKE far too interested in sheep to worry about Ham Radio, has hopes of an a.c. supply one of these days. No news of 2TO or 2TA, guess both of these chaps are far too busy with their properties. Heartiest congratulations to Alf Moye, 2BW, Mal Robinson 2HT, and Brian Mitchell who were presented with certificates of merit for their magnificent effort during the flood at Wagga and the Lower Riverina. During the R.D. Test a brief CQ R.D. brought a reply from W7RD! Must find out whether that contact should bring a bonus or not?

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VICTORIA

The September general meeting of the Division was held on Wednesday, 6th September, at the usual place, the Melbourne Technical College, Bowen Street, Melbourne. There was a good attendance present. The President (Bert Semmens, 3GS), being in the chair, declared the meeting opened at 2000 hours. Visitors welcomed to the meeting by the President were 3ACE and 3AUM and were extended a hearty welcome. The Secretary (Dick Dyer, 3DY) read the minutes of the last meeting and no business arising therefrom, they were put to the meeting for confirmation and carried.

The agenda item for the evening was a film show (the first on for some considerable time) and the titles were "The Flying Doctor" and "The Cathode Ray Tube." The first film dealt with the activities of the Flying Doctor Service and the part radio plays in his work among the people of the outback. The c.r.o. tube was very simply explained with working models, also the construction and application that one can put this very versatile instrument to. It was a pity that the show only lasted for 40 minutes, as we could have taken 140 minutes of this type of film. All present expressed their appreciation of the show.

The President submitted a full report of the last Council meeting explaining all that happened at the meeting and all present seemed satisfied with Council's activities. The next question was the "Food for Britain." This raised a terrific amount of controversy. It was suggested that we wind up the appeal. After the pros and cons were put and argued out, it was resolved that "A letter be sent to the R.S.G.B. and ask their opinion in relation to food parcels, whether they wish us to discontinue with the scheme." A short interval was then taken. Whilst the boys were having a natter we noticed the Secretary very busy at the table issuing out membership forms (we have new ones).

Upon resumption of business, reports were called for from the various groups. T.A.O. reported on 3WI and told us all is now completed. QSL Manager reported everything under control. The Treasurer being absent, the Secretary read his report and this showed that the finances are pretty good. Class Manager reported on the last examination and said that seven of his students sat and one was successful, the other six passing in two subjects. Disposals Manager, Jack Groves, told the meeting that owing to a lot of work involved in checking new gear, the next hand out will be some time next month (October). The Secretary reported on the 25th Anniversary celebrations and gave a concise report of the programme. (Don't forget you chaps, to let us have your ideas.)

Our Membership Secretary has started a new drive for new members and is meeting with excellent results, 22 new members being signed up. The meeting passed a vote of thanks to the Membership Secretary for its fine work. The T.A.C. Secretary gave forth on the difficulty of obtaining lecturers for the general meetings. Surely there must be plenty of our own members that could expound something to the general meeting.

The agenda item for the next general meeting (October) will be a lecture by 3ART on "Sunspot Activity." The subject is, we understand, very interesting and absorbing. He will illustrate his talk with charts (which go back for some 200 years) and show how to read the prediction charts the easy way. This should be one of the best lectures that we have had for some time. If arrangements can be made the lecture will be wire recorded and sent around to the different zones. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2230 hours.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

3JO getting ready for the coming v.h.f. field-day activities; f.b. Herb, let's hope that you can get a little more power into that "Lenfo." Now that gas rationing is over, 3OJ will warm up his shack and resume activity. Hear a whisper that Bob is getting field day happy also. 3ACE wants to know who is the best VK8 car basher; we have our ideas on this subject. 3MZ had difficulties in erecting a Windom antenna; 3JR and 3AIX were present to offer advice. 3AIX, we understand, knows all about alarm clocks; he must be logging those commercials in the 40 metre band.

Things must be crook on 20 when one hears 3HF on 40. 3KE and 3JE are doing the rounds of the Western District and, of course, have a portable rig with them. 3DY wants to know how to get a crystal oscillator to mote. 3LN still worried about harmonics in the 20 metre band, what's wrong with 40 or 80 Len?

VICTORIAN RAILWAYS INSTITUTE WIRELESS CLUB—VK3RI

The above-mentioned club held its monthly meeting on Thursday, 7th September. The usual business was duly dealt with after which a general discussion on future activities of the club received a lot of support. The club wishes to state that the 40 metre rig has been put into working order again and would appreciate any contacts for reports, etc. The club hopes to have a three element beam for 20 Mc. at an early date. The next club dances will be held on 14th September and 18th November. Our meeting nights are the first Thursday of each month.

MOORABBIN RADIO CLUB

The usual monthly meeting of the above club was held on Friday, 18th August, at the club rooms, Town Hall, Moorabbin. There was a good muster of members and visitors present and the President, 3KE, in his usual breezy style, gave them a right royal welcome. Owing to change of jobs, the Sec-

retary, Ted Scott, tendered his resignation and the Assistant Secretary, 3ALX, was appointed to carry on. The meeting placed on record the good work Ted has done and wished him well in his new job.

The main item of business was the formation of the rules of the "Honorary Membership Certificate" for Australian and Overseas Hams. A full set of rules appear elsewhere in this issue. On fulfilment of the rules, an illuminated certificate of Honorary Membership will be issued to the successful applicants. The club asks you to read the rules very carefully, further details can be had from members when in QSO.

Len ("Lento") Jackson chose for his lecture "Sound on Film Recording." After the lecture, the President expressed on behalf of the members his appreciation of Len's fine effort. 3EM reported on the practical night recently held and stated that the xmitter is well under way. The club authorised Ed to purchase a suitable receiver for club use. Donations still come in in the form of gear for which the club is very grateful. John Dawes reported on his visit to the V.R.I. Radio Club's annual meeting and conveyed that club's greetings to this club. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2330 hours. The club meetings are held on the second and third Friday evenings of each month at the Town Hall, Nepean Highway, Moorabbin. The next meeting (20th October) will be a lecture on "High Frequency Transmissions," given by a "high" up in the R.A.A.F. We would like to see as many of the boys as possible at any of our meetings.

EASTERN ZONE

The main subject this month is the inaugural meeting of the Sale Sub-Branch of the W.I.A., which took place on 15th August at the residence of 3LV, Ron Schmidt. Those present were 3SS, 3GO, 3IO, 3VG, 3ABF, 3AFG, 3QZ, 3AHK and a flying brass-pounder, Bud Poundsett, of the R.A.A.F. Bud has his ticket, but as yet no call sign. Our Zone Secretary, 3QZ, opened the show by reading a long screed, full of "where-as" and "hertofore's," pertaining to the formation of sub-branches, etc., and it was decided to carry on with the sub-branch, in spite of all the long words in the screed. The group will be known, locally at least, as the Sale Radio Club, with the object of encouraging and assisting the radio minded lads of the district, to extend their knowledge of the noble art of Ham Radio and eventually gain their tickets. We intend to hold regular meetings in our various towns and this should give the beginners considerable aid through getting to know each other and being able to ask questions to which the handbooks don't always seem to have the answers.

3ABF was elected President and 3SS Vice-President; Howard Vinning, 3VG, is Secretary and Treasurer. That wily warrior, 3QZ, when enthusiasm reached its height, pulled out a bundle of W.I.A. enrolment forms and said, "Sign here, please." The four back sliders of the zone paid up at once! On conclusion of the meeting, the gang dealt with the very nice supper served by the much-better halves of 3LV and 3GO. We then inspected Ron's rack and panel gear which he is building up and after much ear bashing, we proceeded homewards.

The following evening 3QZ attended a meeting of would-be Hams in Bairnsdale and it looks as though 80 metres will have some more QRM in the near future. Graham collected five more applications for the W.I.A. there, which, with one from Tora'gon, gives the zone ten new members for the month! Beat that, if you can!

Apart from the foregoing, personal items this month are scarce. 3SS is the proud possessor of a nice new Chev—see it at our Convention! Keith also had trouble recently with twisted feeders—have you all woken up yet chaps? 3WE has been very ill, but is picking up now, I am pleased to say. 3US/3VL have the 6 metre beam 45 feet up now—these v.h.f. cranks! Gwen has been inactive for about three months so someone else has been using her call sign. Any decent cards Gwen?

The hook up proceeds each Sunday as usual, 3PR, 3LV, 3TH and 3AEP being well to the fore. A new power tranny has turned up for 3AHK so after three months of phone silence, he will have to dust off the 807s again. Let 3AHK know what's doing chaps, especially our Bairnsdale associates, as if no can hear, no can write notes.

SOUTH WESTERN ZONE

On the 17th August 3AGD and your scribe, 3AKR, departed from the temperate south west, for the snowlands. As they were travelling in two separate cars, it was decided to install 144 Mc. mobile equipment in each car, consisting of superregen modulated oscillators. lots of funny effects were discovered in the timbered and hilly country while operating mobile. On the Sunday at Mt. Buffalo, we had a welcome visit from 3KR and 3AT who brought their XYLs and harmonics up for the day. At the end of the week, bruised and tired, we started for home, calling at Ken's (3KR) shack on the way.

3WT had some choice DX in the form of a visit from HB1HL from Switzerland. I wish Peter had been able to visit us out here, he would have been able to tell us all about the snow over there. Bill also has a 50 watt modulator for his TA12D now and in no time at all will be really pushing out a signal. 3YE decided the other day to blow the cobwebs out of his 20 metre coils and in so doing worked himself some fine DX. 3KX's new 20 metre beam is working out f.b. and the country list is really climbing. 3HG will soon be shifting into the new home and shack; will you have to shift the rhombic and vee beams, Neil?

3MO is still working the DX on 40 and only wants Europe for W.A.C. on that band. 3ZU has his new controlled carrier rig going, says input swings from 20-70 watts on speech. 3BI has been heard on 80 lately and putting out a fair sort of a signal too; believe Bert has been having trouble with the eyes again, certainly hope it is better by the time this goes to print.

By the way, I would like to remind zone members that there IS a hook up on the first Sunday of EVERY month at 10 a.m. I would also like to ask those chaps who have not been on these hook-ups to make an effort to do so in the future. After all, how can one or two chaps discuss matters relating to the whole zone.

The Geelong gang have not been so active over the past month, guess the cold weather has a lot to do with it, also some illness. 3AOL has built up a new v.f.o., also has a new mike which has improved his quality. 3AJT still working some good DX on 20 metres; has a new Rx, a "750". 3ABJ will soon have his new beam up for 20 metres and has been busy wiring up the motors for it. 3BW heard on 80 recently; has made a xtal locked converter for 144 Mc. 3AKE still having regular contacts on 144 Mc., is building a new converter and has put a lot of work into it. 3ALG has a new v.f.o. Have heard very little of 3WT, 3IC and 3CM. 3AGN is now using controlled carrier, in spite of his very low antenna, he was heard working VK4 recently. 3AIC has built up a portable transceiver for 144. 3ABK was home for a short period and was on for a time. 3BU had a couple of contacts on 144 using his 522

GEELONG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB—VK3ATL

A very interesting evening was spent by members of the above club at the first meeting for the month when 3AKE gave a practical demonstration of v.h.f. antennae. Ed showed how extra gain could be had by adding elements to the antenna. He used in this case a three over three. Members were able to see the difference with the aid of a field strength meter. Ed also showed how a simple 144 Mc. antenna could be made up in a few minutes and with the aid of materials he brought proved this point. He also described the "City Slicker" antenna and used the blackboard to illustrate this antenna. Many questions were fired at him.

The following meeting, the business of the club was disposed of rather quickly, then members paid a visit to the shack of 3ABE. Alex runs 100 watts to a 35TG and operates on 20 metres and has a beam ready to go up on a latticed mast, his Rx is an AR7. Members were treated to a supper, buffet style, prepared by Mrs. Bell.

The next meeting took the form of an Exhibition Night. This is the first of its kind held by Amateurs in Geelong and members brought along equipment made by them besides disposals gear and made a very impressive show. On view also was the club's new Rx recently obtained at the last hand-out of the W.I.A. which the club feels very proud to possess. During the evening 3ALT, the club's transmitter, was on the air on 80, 40 and 2 metres. In spite of the wet night, there was a good roll up.

NORTH EASTERN ZONE

A straight line is not necessarily the shortest distance between two points, so says our perusal of maps for the non 3UI to 3AKR. Now this may seem strange, but I believe it is to be kept in mind when operating on 144 Mc. 3AKR is trying to break through and contact 3APF on 144. A newcomer to the ranks of 144 is 3YV. 3KR has a pupil for morse by the name of Peter who is a school teacher over Benalla way. Hope you catch on quicker than I, Peter; good luck. I am now in a position to feel sorry for the last zone correspondent. This month has brought nil in the way of notes, so have been a snooping to have any notes at all.

3UI on lunch hour quite frequently, but 3APF, 3AT, and 3HZ still preferring the higher frequencies. 3ACK building planes, only decent job of radio was to fix band spread on his Rx which had the habit of sticking at critical times. 3ABO now in Queensland looking at tall timbers, having retired from D.C.A. Boy does he get about. 3AGT hasn't been heard lately, too many heterodynes stau without turning on the rig.

Last zone hook-up didn't go too good. 3KR was off due to power failure, 3AT off on business after getting in a few words. 3APF in Melbourne, 3FD using smoke signals as batteries were low, sorry Arly, couldn't even find you. You boys were wrong about 3HP not using his modulator. While I didn't hear his voice, I am sure I heard a lot of comarks each time he came on. Maybe 'twas my Rx. However, I couldn't copy you Henry, but that isn't saying much. Congrats on working that W on 80 though Henry.

Ron Gibb up Wangaratta way now has his ticket, but as yet no call sign. Good hunting Ron. 3JK burning up gas instead of the ether with a new car a Jacquer, so I'm told, very subtle Howard. While I'm on the Jab Howard, every time you open the mike there is quite a hum, as none of the boys have ever told you while I've been listening. I think you should know. My guess is a tranny modulating. 3UI troubled on 144 by atmospherics every Saturday night, seems man-made. Alan why not look at local flicks, DC generator?

3ACK worked a ZL on 40 with c.w., who was the lad who turned on a b.c. set using the oscillator to blanket the ZL out? Bad luck, John. Hear that 3UI is working on an automatic keying arrangement for v.h.f. Can't say much without being overheard eh Alan. Zone members were conspicuous by their absence at the recent disposal hand-out held at Werny. Reason, inadequate time for zone officials to organise anything. More time, next time for country members please is the cry from up this away. 3FD might be on phone soon (cheers from some members).

Didn't hear the end of zone hook-up due to urgent job on the car. However, I would implore you fellows to say it quick, be like 3ACK and run out of words long ago. However, Howard, I like the suggestion of a get-together before the next Convention. Let's hear more about it next hook-up, but make it short. What with organising the dinner, looking after two harmonies, washing up, trying to copy notes I haven't much time. Sorry, forgot to tell you, XYL is in hospital. Well boys I have run out of snooping, so cheers and 73.

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QUEENSLAND

This month we have very little news of activities at headquarters in Brisbane. However we have a wealth of zone news which we hope will make up for the lack of notes on general meeting, etc.

During August visitors to Brisbane included 4EL, 4ER, 4RH, 4LD, 4SN, and 4CU. Those who went along to the Exhibition had a good look at the W.I.A. exhibit. Although small and lacking in some respects, it was nevertheless a beginning of what we hope will grow into something worth seeing at future Exhibitions. Equipment on display included a 100 watt transmitter, Class C Wave Meter, N.C. Silver Anniversary Receiver, Oscillograph, Command Sets, S.s.s.c. Transmitter, Portable Gear, and DX Cards. Those responsible for the loan of these items were 4FP, 4MP and 4VJ. Whilst waiting near the exhibit for some other Hams to come along I had the pleasure of meeting a real old timer (whose name I have forgotten), who operated in the good old "coherer" days at Nambour. Then helped some budding Hams to fill in application forms for membership and last, but not least, met pre-war Latvian VL2MI, who is now living in Queensland and hopes to become an active VK4.

Owing to the holidays I was not a participant in the R.D. Contest this year, but did manage to take time off to listen for a short period during the Contest. It was noticeable that the standard of operation was very high and showed a marked improvement on last year. For future Contests I suggest that Contest be limited to any twelve consecutive hours operation between 0600 Saturday to 1800 hours Sunday.

● **We have been advised by our outward QSL Officer that VK4RL, 61 Manilla Street, East Brisbane, is handling this section until further notice.**

4RC has been on the sick list for some time. Everyone will be sorry to hear of Bob's illness and I know I am expressing the sincere wishes of all in wishing you, Bob, very speedy recovery.

BRISBANE ZONE (4CC)

4PX, like most of us at times, has had more than his share of "hum" trouble. It was most interesting to hear the dozens of methods of overcoming the gremlin that were suggested to Arthur during the month—some even went so far as to infer that Arthur must have his shoes off, because the rig is right next to the bed and he must be all set to tumble into it. You must have an understanding wife, Arthur, anyhow, we think the hum-bug has been buried at 4PX's shack. 4FP has been off the air for the last month or so and has been using the time in building a beam three element beam. The tower is a simple but very effective ladder type, which was easily pushed up by four of us, and within five minutes of its erection, Jack was up on the top of it with all the confidence of a veteran. Speaking of climbing towers I suggest you take a gander at the "ants" walking around the tower being erected on the top of the Brisbane G.P.O., then you can go home to your humble 40 footer with confidence.

Like many other Brisbane stations, 4BK and 4MB have changed over to zero bias Class B 807 modulating with very good effect too. By the way, I've yet to hear of a faster way of turning on the rig than Mick has—he just presses a button with his foot. 4JO should soon be stirring up the DX with his own rig, he did pretty well in the recent ladder—I can see some hair being pulled out though—he lives next door to 4PP, wouldn't it? Wish I had both the voice and quality that 4TT is pushing out of his it is really super. Both Tom and 4SC (Charlie) are lucky enough to have Command transmitters to use as v.f.o.

Speaking of 4SC, his photogenic daughter has kindly offered to take notes of items of interest as she twists the QSO dial and pass them on to me for inclusion herein. Better watch out or you will be quoted verbatim as Claire is a shorthand typiste. I am told that 4JV has other loves besides Ham Radio, he was observed going to the Grange Archery with a gaily coloured tackle case the other Sunday.

In a recent copy of "A.R." it was noticed that 4ES had closed down. Rumours reaching the sub-editor seem to indicate that Eric is suffering from an itchy key finger. Clive reports that Eric, Jnr., told him that 4ES has started hammering, sawing and soldering again and to all intents and purposes it could be that Eric, Snr., is coming on the air again, we hope so anyhow.

TOWNSVILLE ZONE (4EL)

4EJ now world wide authority on relays and their adjustments and electronics keyers. Still knocks over the DX with a rather drunken one-and-a-half element beam. 4GD mainly on 28 Mc and testing out screen modulation with clipper, and it sounds good too. 4TL puts out a nice clean signal on 7 and 14 Mc. and is getting his share of the DX. Keen sked with 9MR in Madang. 4QL often heard calling "CQ DX" and does quite a lot of listening on the band too. 4WH putting out a nice c.w sig and has changed from his centre fed Zepp to end fed job, and now has a lobe on Europe and doing quite well, also getting ready for 28 Mc. when ( ) it opens, and also a nice rig for 50 Mc. complete with beam. 4GF, the old Edgar, heard in a big four-way hook-up on 14 Mc. one night, holding his own with his QRP rig.

4XD not heard lately due being QRL at local commercial station. 4BX has been heard with some nice c.w. lately as a change from phone. Graham is said to have been chased by a big bad wolf on the air one night. 4DB also at the same QTH as 4EL—as a matter of fact, they are approximately 30 feet apart, how's that for QRM? Doug is rebuilding rig and has a new 830B final just completed. 4RW has forsaken the phone for a while, has two nice beams on 14 and 28 Mc. 4EL out at the local National station in the mulga, has lots of time and space and is making full use of both by trying out all sorts of arrays on Europe and reckons 4AP had the right idea when he said the lazy H was the daddy of 'em all. Eric now up to his 400th sked with G5ZA. General conditions in Townsville have not been too good, the best periods for 14 Mc. have been from 0700 to 0900 and 1500 to 1700 hours. 28 Mc. quite dead and 7 Mc. fair for Yanks in the evening. Eric also reports working countries that he had never even heard in Brisbane, his latest being OY and EA9, and has worked 250 Europeans since June.

DOWNS ZONE (4CG)

General grouch in this area is "conditions." And we say for the umpteenth time, never in 25 years of operation on the Ham bands have we known conditions to have been so poor. This year noise has been up and activity has been down. There is little general activity in this zone, 4WY is most consistent with his trunk line to Inverell. Heard 4CK on in one day recently, so Warwick is back on the map. 4CU active mostly on 80, but still listens an awful lot on 5 metres. Soon Charlie, soon! 4XN is polishing his folded dipole, getting it all nice and shiny for the 5 metre season. 4KK proposes to be in on it this year too with big arrays. 4IO and 4JU getting more power on 40 these days, heard testing few nights recently (4OA seems to be in on this too).

4FQ pottering to get on again after eleven years. Unlucky Ham in VK is Fraser, got his licence on 23rd August 1939, and a telegram the same night re ceiling sum—what was on. Never pressed his key or said 'boo' into his mike, now knocking up low power transmitter for 240 volt d.c. (our sympathy to him). 4DA motored to Melbourne and took a load of portable and a couple of ports of clothes. Kept skeds with 4XN and 4RF and worked a lot of the gang on the way down. 4SO quite inactive. 4CG not doing anything spectacular—just biding my time.

With the notes I have completed two years as sub-editor for this Division. I have been greatly assisted in the compilation of the notes during that period by 4EL, 4RW, 4KW, 4XJ, 4HJ, 4HZ, 4GH, 4CG, 4UX and 4CC, to each of whom I extend sincere thanks and appreciation. I think the time has now come to hand over the sub-editor's job to someone who has more time for Ham Radio activity and, in particular, to someone who is better able to attend monthly meetings and keep in closer touch with Council. During my term I have travelled 100 miles a month to attend meetings, but am now finding this a little too much. I have enjoyed writing your notes and hope I have brought something of interest to our VK4 readers. Wishing my successor every success and your continued co-operation and thanks for having me at your place each month during the past two years, 73 and all the best—VK4SN.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The monthly general meeting for August was held in a representative gathering at the club rooms, the guest speaker being Mr Clem Tillbrook (5QL), who chose for his subject "Crystal Locked Converters." This is not the first time that Clem has lectured to us and as I have said before in these notes, he possesses that most prized attribute among lecturers, the ability to express in simple language the complex theory or formulae associated with the lecture and yet do so in a manner as to make it all seem so simple. He brought along one or two converters that he had constructed along the lines discussed in his lecture, and judging from the number of questions and the discussions that arose later, it would be no stretch of the imagination to say that the evening was an unqualified success. 5UX, from Kulpara, proposed the vote of thanks which was received with enthusiasm. One point which Les stressed will bear repeating, and that was that it was a great pity that the country member, due to the circumstances of his being so far from the city, was excluded from such lectures and the instructive question and answer period which always follows. This is a question which has from time to time given much food for thought to Council, and no matter from which angle it is looked at, no suitable answer has at yet presented itself. If any member, city or country, can find a suitable solution to this problem, he will be welcomed with welcome arms by all concerned. Just in passing, officialdom takes a dim view of any suggestions regarding recordings and playing back over 5WI, or anything along similar lines. (Such interesting lectures could become the basis of an article for this magazine, where both city and country members who were absent from the meeting could study same.—Ed.)

Among the welcome visitors were 5UX (Kulpara), 5NV, 5XL (Clare), 5LH (Port Augusta), 5CP (Port Augusta), 5FP, K. Eckerman and T. Taylor. To these visitors, some of whom are members, we say again, come as often as you can, and to those that are not members, we say, if you have found us a decent bunch of fellows, well then join up and be one of us. Remember that if you ever bump into any trouble from up above, what they can do to you is no one's business when you are only an individual, but collectively, well that is a horse of another colour.

I was quite impressed with the speed and agility with which Joe McAllister found a blackboard duster when asked for one by Clem. The words had hardly left his mouth when through the air with the greatest of ease came a duster, and all I can say is that Joe must have had it up his jumper.

5JK appeared to thoroughly enjoy the lecture, at least his gentle snores gave that impression, and when Norm Collman jabbed him in the ribs, Jim sat up very quickly and said, "I think that a half wave vertical is a lot better than a full wave horizontal." When he eventually realised where he was, he disappeared down inside of his overcoat in complete embarrassment.

The new President, E. Barbier (5MD), having been so successful in his foul purpose of the previous month's meeting, deigned to take the chair and in a few well chosen words eulogised the work of the past President, Hal Austin (5AW), these sentiments being shared by all members present. With an obvious sneer in his voice, the President also thanked the Vice-President for stepping so manfully into the breech at the previous meeting, thereby causing several members to titter audibly, but as my spirit has been ground into the dust by the continued attacks on the part of the President, one or more poisoned darts matter little.

John Sheard (ex-5JA, now in England), writing to Joe McAllister, says that he is now domiciled in Burwood Park, Surrey, and hopes before long to be on the air with a G call. He speaks well of television and says that it has a clarity and fascination equal to any home movie and also said he had viewed a cricket match in his sitting room comparable or better than he has viewed some matches in the grandstands. As a matter of interest he quoted the price of his television set as being £18/10/- complete.

News also to hand of Dr. Ross Adey (ex-5AJ, now G3GPC) to say that all is well and that he is looking for VK5 contacts on 20 metres. He also said that 5PS is putting in a signal into G land that has to be heard to be believed, well, he did not say that exactly, but I know that he would have said it if he had thought of it. Cheerio Ross, and all here wish to be remembered to you, and my fallen chest is still falling.

5TL forwarded on to me a letter he had received from 2TL in connection with a misdirected QSL card. In the letter, 2TL wished to be remembered to all the VK5 chappies and especially to the "Droll Character" who writes the VK5 notes for the mag. I was puffed up with my own importance for about a week after that until I saw a dictionary which said that droll meant "odd or queer" and now I am not too sure of myself. Oh well, he had probably just finished a QSO with my soul mate Barbier when he wrote the letter so, what else can I expect.

The Remembrance Day Contest has come and gone again and many are now licking their wounds and figuring as to how they could have grabbed a few more contacts if only they had been more of a wake up to several little points. Anyway, it was a whale of a good time and appeared to be enjoyed by all. To be quite frank, a number of VK5 boys (including myself) who entered the Contest, did so, not because they are keen on Contests, but simply to pull their weight for their State, and all those that did enter all agreed that it was good fun and that they would not have missed it for worlds. I confined my activities to 14 Mc. phone, and in common with many others, did not hear a VK3 throughout the Contest; don't know why, just one of those things I suppose. I managed to put a crimp in the curly locks of 7RM which gave me intense satisfaction. "Roop" was dashing hither and thither, handing out and receiving 89 reports, until his voice was nearly bursting with pride as the 89 reports were mounting up. I called him and gave him an 86, and did he do a song and dance; he screamed and yelled as if he had sat on the wrong end of a garden rake. He was definitely cut to the quick, and I felt sorry that it had fallen to my lot to topple him off his perch. Sorry "Roop," but pride goeth before a fall.

Incidentally, quite a number of people, not all Amateurs, listen to the daily skeds between 7RM and 5QP at noon every day, and after listening to a few myself, I am convinced that the reason for their "stickybeaking" is only to hear what construction "Roop" will put on the twelve o'clock ABC news. On two occasions that I heard him, he said, commenting on a cloudburst in Sydney that day, "Water is flowing over the tops of the parked cars in Pitt Street, and all the suburban houses have water flowing over the chimneys," and referring to a cold snap that we had in Adelaide, he said, "Mt. Lofty is covered in snow and King William Street traffic is blocked with snow three feet high." "Roop," how could you!

Our new Divisional Secretary, 5XU, has as yet not sufficiently recovered from his recent illness and as there is some suggestion of a sojourn in hospital, our ex-secretary 5MD, has consented to carry on until Gordon has recovered. It looks to me as if I have a chance to receive that letter from him after all. We all hope that Gordon will soon be well again and also hope that the trip to the hospital will not materialise.

5MA can now be seen at club meetings wearing a huge crown on his head upon which is written "VK5MA, King of the Butchers," and below it in huge letters a list of all the "accidents" that have happened to him lately including a 1000/1000 tranny, three filter condensers, and sundry other articles. Aside from this, Fred has nothing further to report. 5KW has been fairly active on 40 and has just completed a new aerial coupling unit which has improved things all round for him. He is also building new gear for a receiver and also for 6. Harry is settling down into his new job at the second best broadcasting station in the State, but the telegraph sounder is not treating him too well. The first ten years are the hardest Harry; I know because I have still two years to go.

5BC is at present on holidays down at Victor Harbour with a portable rig on 40, and when I bumped into him down there he was raving about the almost perfect conditions that he has found there. 5SL is too busy house chasing and looking at building plans to have much time for Radio, and all signs seem to point to the fact that it won't be long now. My friend of the Berri Co-op. Packing Shed, Murray Nicholson, is sitting for his ticket in October, so here's hoping it works out alright for you Murray.

One of my spies from England has forwarded me a cutting from the "Short Wave Magazine," and now I know where a certain President disappears to now and again. I quote: "We recently had the pleasure of a personal QSO with Commandante Marcelo Barbieri (LU3BG) who is over here on a short visit. Major Barbieri, to give him his equivalent rank in English, is the President of the Radio Club Argentina. Major Barbieri was unfortunate enough to leave behind at the airport all of his photos and other items of Amateur Radio." Do you get it? and I will bet my life that this Major Barbieri spent a half an hour running down his Vice-President Colonel Parsonski to all who would listen.

Well this is all I have for this month, for some unexplainable reason, my correspondent from Mt. Gambier is in the land of the missing, and also the same applies to 5XL who has apparently broken down under the strain. Anyway as I have been down with the 'flu and don't feel quite 100 per cent. yet, perhaps it is all for the best. I hope that all is well Colin and Lance. Just in passing, Gordon Bowen has unfortunately gone to Daws Road Hospital for observation. Here's hoping that he will be home soon.

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The August meeting of this Division was held in the Institute Rooms, Padbury House, St. George's Terrace, on Tuesday the 15th, before a rather disappointing attendance. The business of the evening was conducted in what must have been record time, one in one way to the Secretary leaving the minutes of the previous meeting at home, and in another, to the President feeling rather off colour after a gruelling at the dentist's that afternoon. Noticed Ron making a quick exit when the meeting adjourned for the usual ragchew.

6JS, acting as chief projectionist, treated the meeting to a screening of two excellent films, one on radio research and the other on transport problems in the United States. I believe all the civic authorities in Perth have viewed the latter film. Let's hope they learned something from it. A hearty vote of thanks to 6JS was moved by the Secretary before the meeting closed at the early hour of 9.50 p.m.

Well by now the Remembrance Day Contest is over for another year, and each Division will be awaiting the results with great impatience. VK6 was well represented with approximately 65 stations operating. Conditions were not good by any means and the 20 metre band took the count very early in the Contest, leaving 40 metres to the tender mercies of some scores of stations. Boy! was that QRM fierce. Several stations found the going that tough they didn't manage to make the necessary five contacts. Those who were able to work 80 metres were able to operate in comparative comfort and much good work was done on that band. Considering the relatively poor conditions, some remarkable scores were made by several VK6 stations, namely, 6RU, 6KW, 6DX, 6FL, 6KU and 6MB. The main thing to do now is get your logs in to the Secretary and help build up that multiplier. VK5 seemed to be very well represented and I think our main opposition will come from that State. The standard of operating in the Contest was once again very high, and there seems to be no doubt about this Contest being the most popular of the year. May the best State win.

On Friday, 1st September, it was my privilege to be able to attend the Annual Dinner of the Radio Society of Western Australia. A very well organised and successful function it turned out to be, and the Dinner Committee of the Society is to be congratulated. Every speaker emphasised the splendid work being done by the Society in training their members for the A.O.C.P., thus keeping up a steady flow of new licencees to swell the Amateur ranks in VK6. Those present were taken back to the earlier days of radio in this State by the reminiscences of Frank Goldsmith (ex-6FG), Bert Congdon 6BC, Skipper Schofield 6WS and Ted Doddy 6WH. Incidentally 6BC was the Secretary to the Society for just over 25 years, which must surely be an all time Australian record. The President of this Division, 6KW, is also President of the Radio Society, and many Amateurs in this State belong to both the W.I.A. and the Radio Society.

By the time this appears in print, the Country versus City QSO Day will be but a memory. The date is Sunday, 10th September, and the venue 40 metres. Roll up one and all, but leave just a couple of Kc/s. vacant for me, please!

PERSONALITIES

The R.D. Contest brought many a rig out of mothballs, with disastrous effects on some long idle power supplies. 6RG lost a pair of 866s, and a power tranny. Russ finished up running the rig from the exciter power supply and working the required number of contacts. 6PJ lost a driver transformer in the modulator. If VK6 wins the trophy better submit a bill for the damage fellows. 6WS, Skipper Schofield, recently celebrated his 75th birthday, but still as young as when he made his first contact many years ago. Skip has been interested in radio since about 1925 and has a wealth of stories to tell about those earlier days. Recently treated himself to a commander receiver and can be heard on 20 and 40 metres. 6YZ heard trying some n.b.f.m. on 40 a week or so ago, but since then has been back on a.m. Didn't you like it or didn't the boys like it Dick?

6CP still active on 20 and occasionally ventures down to 40. 6JW is back on 20 and 10 after a very long absence from the air. Putting out a nice signal John. Must have the dual beam working nicely. 6RT finally turned up in Cue and with ten watts (sometimes) from d.c. mains puts a very respectable signal into Perth. 6WZ now on holidays and is carrying a small portable rig with him. Contacted Harry from Lakewood (near Kalgoorlie) recently and the seven watts were getting down to Perth quite well. 6GA will be back in the West 'ere these notes are printed. Looking forward to seeing you back Bill, even if it does mean more QRM for the Carlisle gang. We can take it, even if my receiver can't.

6DJ still very active on 40 and is keen enough to set the alarm for 5.30 a.m. or thereabouts to work the Europeans on that band. Winter time too. How do you do it? The getting up part, I mean. 6RS back from holidays down at Mandurah and all ready for another year's toil. Before going away, Ron did some high pressure work on his Hendix Tx and just finished in time to use it on 80 for the R.D. Contest. 6DD very quiet these days; rumour has it that the royal and ancient game of golf has nearly supplanted radio as far as John is concerned. 6HL also on holidays and has portable gear for 40, 10 and 6 (one transmitter), installed in the family buggy. Just don't know whereabouts Harry went for the vacation, but he has been heard and worked on 40. 6AG, our Secretary, is away on a business trip up the North West. Last heard of from Meekatharra.

This month I will have to blame the lack of activity on the various bands for the scarcity of news. That lack of activity is no doubt due to the very poor conditions prevailing. Once again, if you have any items for this column, let me know, I'll do the rest—Cheerio.

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TASMANIA

Activity amongst the southern members for the month of August has been relatively quiet with the exception of the Remembrance Day Contest, when most Hams did their best for our fair State. From what can be gathered some excellent logs have been received by our worthy Secretary, and with the addition of the North and North Western Hams, a good score should result. Unfortunately, some operators used wrong numbering procedure, this mistake can easily occur even in the best of circles. Several members were fortunate to secure the services of scribes which made the going much easier.

An additional member of the W.I.A. to graduate to full membership is Don Davis who, after a hold up with c.w., managed to pass the recent A.O.C.P. examination. Plans are well in hand for the Ham shack and within a few weeks another member will be present at the Sunday night ragchew. Next time you run into 7RM, ask him about the unofficial South American record he holds. Believe he was the only marine operator who could copy a very fast press station and have his supper at the same time (or something to that effect). You are a bad lad, Rupe.

Listening to 7BH one recent Sunday night and was envious of the f.b. signal which was received at this end. Thought it might have been my receiver, but I will have to admit the transmission was faultless. Congratulations, Brian. Believe "Acker" Anderson is a noted authority on microphones as he was given a mike to check by 7SK. Was puzzled at the lack of output so upon opening the case, believe it or not, found our mate had forgotten he had taken the insert out; you beaut.

For those not so financial and desirous of a radio receiver suggest you walk past a certain Ham's store in Liverpool Street, any time after six p.m. Anything from a mantle receiver to a combination radiogram can be obtained, suggest you leave your AR88 out one night Max and see what happens.

A new call to most is 7SR which is operated by an Army Signal Club and is located at "Beaumaris." Noticed a DL1 amongst other foreign calls listed in the log. Several well-known Hams are in the Unit and so another "radio hungry club" has been formed.

A meeting was convened by 7AB with the purpose of forming a North Western Zone. This should be a great benefit in fostering Amateur activities in this area as one of their aims is to conduct A.O.C.P. classes which should increase W.I.A. membership. Most of the Hams in this intended zone find it most difficult to attend Institute meetings at Launceston, owing to the long journey necessary.

It was whispered Johnie Grace has now decended from the remoteness of 144 Mc. to 40 metres and now contemplates building a receiver for this particular band. 7SD now works exclusive DX in the form of a G on 40 and was received at S9 plus. Was a surprise until I found the "G" was marine mobile in port at Hobart.

As these notes have been prepared prior to our September meeting, it is intended the Lecture will be given by Mr. Turnbull, continuing his previous lecture. This should prove interesting as a panoramascope will be exhibited and how the c.r.o. can be used in the checking of receivers. Discussion regarding future emergency network practice will be another major topic, so how about leaving the fireside armchair and enjoy the cosy comfort to be had at these meetings?

NORTHERN ZONE

Seems to me that last month I tried to run 30 days ahead of myself and reported the August meeting before it happened—obviously should have read July, sorry, but now we can talk of August. Our meetings seem to be drawing bigger and better crowds as they go on and this month was no exception. All present were treated to a very interesting and informative talk by 7XW on the whys and wherefores of a modern b.c. station. Chris is naturally very well fitted to discuss such matters being engineer at one of our local b.c. stations and the material presented was very well received. A vote of thanks, ably proposed by 7RB, who is by way of being in the opposition, but very friendly opposition it seems, was carried by acclamation.

Well, the 1950 R.D. Contest is now but a memory and what a memory! The pounding those poor bands took was just nobody's business. The contacts just rolled in one after the other, guess most stations turned up to play their part for their State and pay tribute to the memory the contest perpetuates. Judging by the activity some really bumper scores will be turned in and the final result bound to be close.

Activity apart from the R.D. Contest has been somewhat desultory during the month. 7BQ has been firing up on 6 getting ready no doubt for the season to commence. The main occupation at 7LZ seems to have been blowing trannies; after the second one went, Col, working on the usual sequence of three, took one from the junk box and threw it out for insurance, but no good, another one popped which just goes to show what a cruel thing fate is. A new converter for 6 and 10 is starting to emerge from the work bench and I, for one, am closely following results with an eye to a future similar piece.

Was walking out Lyttleton Street way some days ago and idly speculating as to which QTH belonged to 7PF when lo and behold an amazing collection of arrays met my eye; beams of all sorts and sizes, feeders and all the trimmings. I stood and gazed and wondered if I were a signal which of the maze I would choose to get myself inside and reach the ears of the operator. However, judging by the results, they do sort themselves out very well.

This month we have lost to the zone the person of 7NL, Noel has been transferred to VK2 and will we hope be heard from there. While not very active on the air, it was very seldom a meeting took place that he did not attend and he will be missed by us all. Good luck in the new State, Noel, and it's been nice meeting you.

7HY, 7DB and 7TE all were in on the R.D. Contest for a few contacts and out at Longford 7DS kicked off very well, but struck receiver trouble I believe—tough luck Bill. The expected card from VK1ADS, mentioned as being a hopeful in the batch received by the QSL Manager from VK3, did not eventuate, so we are still on the waiting list; a compensation for 7LZ and myself did arrive however this month in the shape of FN8AD, long since written off as one of the "won'ts." DX is showing a slight improvement although still wouldn't go into raptures about it. The ionospheric prediction charts for September look interesting so maybe 'ere the month is out, things may be well on the up grade.

So, once more it's curtains and, as a reminder, the date in October is the 13th—for jittery members a supply of rabbits' feet and lucky charms will be available at the door at a small charge, proceeds to go to the society for destitute Hams—as if there are any other sort!

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CORRESPONDENCE

The opinions expressed in these letters are the individual opinions of the writer, and do not necessarily coincide with those of the publishers.

CONTEST RESULTS

Lascelles Ave., Beaumont, S.A.

Editor "A.R.," Dear Sir,

I have read, with interest, the rules for the 1950 VK-ZL Contest, and could not help smiling at the heavy print of Rule 14 requesting logs by 24th November, 1950. Isn't there a rule 15 missing requesting the Contest Committee to return results by a definite date?

Well seriously, the 1948 Contest—handled in ZL—was not exactly encouraging in that respect; results being published in a rather sketchy manner, and only for VK-ZL districts about 12 months after.

In 1949 I really had hopes that VK3 would be quicker on the job, but alas, 12 months have gone by and no sign of Contest results.

Most of the fun of the Contest is lost with that lag in publishing the result, and an effort should be made to get the results in my three to six months. Of course it may be said that even the A.R.R.L. is struggling in spite of all their staff and facilities, but nevertheless the high scorers are given within three months.

Could not the best brains in hamdom be asked to devise a new basis for Contests which simplifies and reduces checking work?

I remember an Editorial some time ago asking for views on Contests in general and while I am on the subject, I can mention that I believe that there is still a lot of interest in Contests, particularly in the big ones which have been established for some time and are well supported. I don't think the average man can manage to participate in more than two or three each year and send the logs plus analysis sheets in.

I cannot conclude this letter without expressing my appreciation for the promptness with which the "A.R." arrives every month. In fact I am approaching the mail box with utmost confidence to look for it. If I could only find those test results!

—F. G. HAAS, VK5FH.

[No one understands the problem of having Contest results available within a reasonable period after a Contest than does Federal Executive, but the trouble is always, and will continue to be, that of "no interested members to help" until such time as a Contest Committee is formed to keep Contest matters up to date. Federal Executive agree with the criticism fired at them and despite a united attempt by the Victorian Council to obtain four—only four—interested members with Contest experience who would take over the responsibilities of putting "this contest business" on a sound footing, to date no definite results have been achieved. Many hands make light work of building a solid framework of efficiency where chaos exists! Can you—and you—and you, do something NOW! We need four experienced contest members to form a Contest Committee in conformity with General Business Item No. 6 of the 1950 30th Annual Convention. Let's hear from you.—Federal Executive.]

BRAILLE MAGAZINE

"Grand View," Cliff Drive, Katoomba.

Editor "A.R.," Dear Sir,

In response to the paragraph which appeared in the June issue of "Amateur Radio," concerning the publication in the United States of a new magazine in Braille, I wrote to the address given and have received in reply a letter, a copy of which is appended below.

I have also forwarded a copy to the New South Wales Division of the Institute, and I would suggest that all concerned should give such publicity to this matter as is considered necessary throughout all Divisions.

The first issue of the magazine referred to in the letter has not yet come to hand, but when it does so, I shall inform you as to the general nature of its contents.

WILLIAM J. ZECH, VK2AOP.

Dear Bill,

Received your letter inquiring about the new Braille Magazine for Blind Amateurs today and very pleased to inform you about it.

It is called the "Braille Technical Press," and the first issue was released in March of this year. It is a Radio and Electronic guide published monthly for the blind. Edited by Robert W. Gunderson, W2JIO, executive offices, 980 Waring Avenue, New York City, 67, New York, U.S.A. The cost of the publication is six dollars a year, and it will be sent to blind hams, short wave listeners, sound engineers and servicemen anywhere in the world.

We hope to reach all blind persons interested in radio, whether they can afford the subscription price or not. Of course it is a tremendous project and a costly one, but it is already off to a good start. Your name has been placed on the subscription list, and you soon will begin to receive copies. After receiving your first copy please write to W2JIO stating your desire to continue to receive the publication, and that you read Braille. This is important as those not answering will be dropped.

Will you kindly inform the official organ of the W.I.A. that the publication went to press in March and that we are anxious to hear from all blind Amateurs, short wave listeners and servicemen who read Braille.

After receiving and reading the "B.T.P." we will welcome any suggestions or criticisms you may wish to offer. I am serving on the board of directors and, with other blind Amateurs and Radio Engineers, will set the policy of the magazine.

At the present time I operate only on 10 metres, both phone and c.w. using a Hallicrafters' HT9 transmitter running 100 watts and a three element beam, also using a national NC200 receiver with a preselector and a Millen v.f.o. I am planning to erect a beam for 20 this summer. I have part time employment at a metallurgy plant and have a guide dog to take me back and forth from work.

It will be greatly appreciated if you will send along any information that you may have on blind people who may be interested in radio. You may write either in Braille or print. Here's hoping you will receive the magazine soon and enjoy it also, and that we may meet on the air some day, very 73. —EVERETT A. ERICKSON, W1NLM, No. 5 Oaklands Heights, Bethel, Connecticut, U.S.A.

CLASSIFIED ADS.

Advertisements will be accepted under this heading from the trade, and/or others who are actively engaged in trading as a livelihood. Rate: 15/- per inch.

WANTED TO BUY.—BENDIX FREQUENCY METERS BC221 or LM7, etc., in good condition, any quantities. R. H. Cunningham Pty. Ltd., 62 Stanhope St., Malvern, Vic. (Phone UY 6274).

HAMADS

9d. per line, minimum 2/-.

Advertisements under this heading will only be accepted from Institute Members who desire to dispose of equipment which is their own personal property. Copy must be received by 8th of the month, and remittance must accompany advertisement. Calculation of cost is based on an average of six words a line.

Dealers' Advertisements not accepted in this column.

FOR SALE.—Halicrafter SX18 Communication Receiver, fitted with noise silencer and voltage regulator. Complete with S meter and speaker. £40 or offer. O. L. Nestrom, 8 Burgan Street, Broadview, South Australia.

SELL.—Marconi Xmitter TNS2 50w. brand new with valves and 3.5 Mc. xtal, £20. Also TA12D Xmitter, excellent condition. Write R. Black, Central School, Liverpool, N.S.W.

WANTED.—AMR200 Components and Dust Covers for Receiver Coil Box and Power Supply. T. D. Hogan, 127 Oakleigh Road, Carnegie, S.E.9, Victoria (Phone: UM 1732).

WANTED.—Good VCR140 C.R.T. Tubes. G. Millerd, 18 Ward Street, South Melbourne, Vic.

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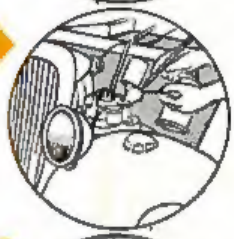

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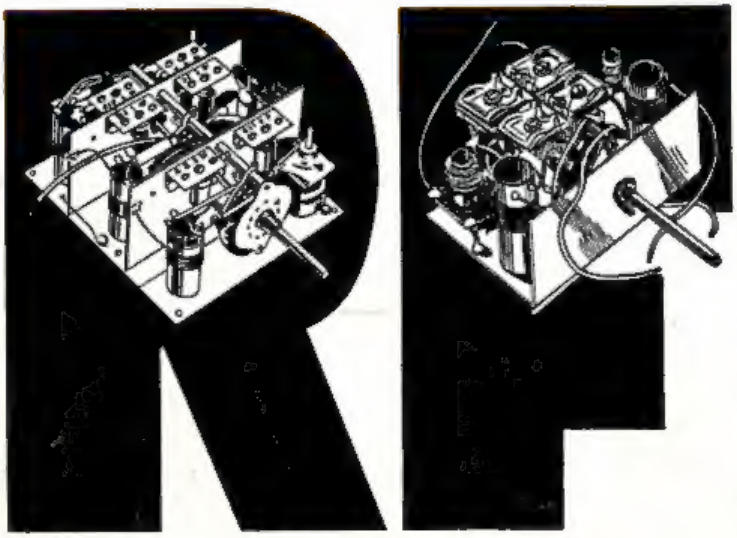

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J.H. MAGRATH & Co.

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